Battle Angel Alita

ANGEL OF DEATH

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

ANGEL OF DEATH

A BATTLE ANGEL ALITA™ GRAPHIC NOVEL

STORY AND ART BY

YUKITO KISHIRO

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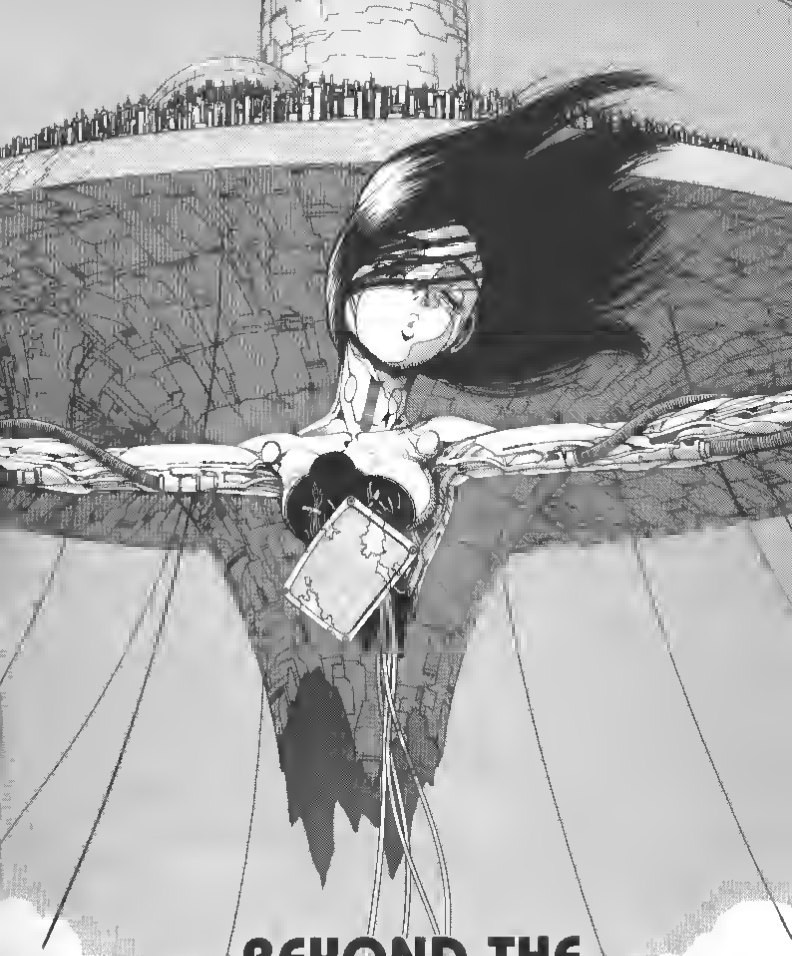
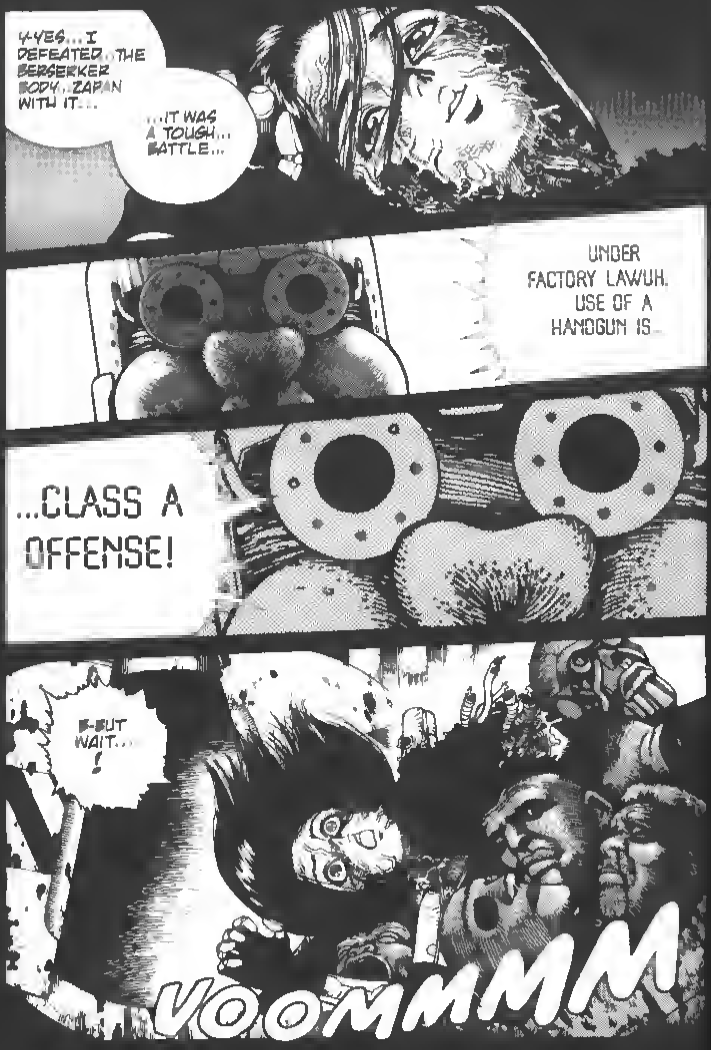


BEYOND THE YELLOW DOOR

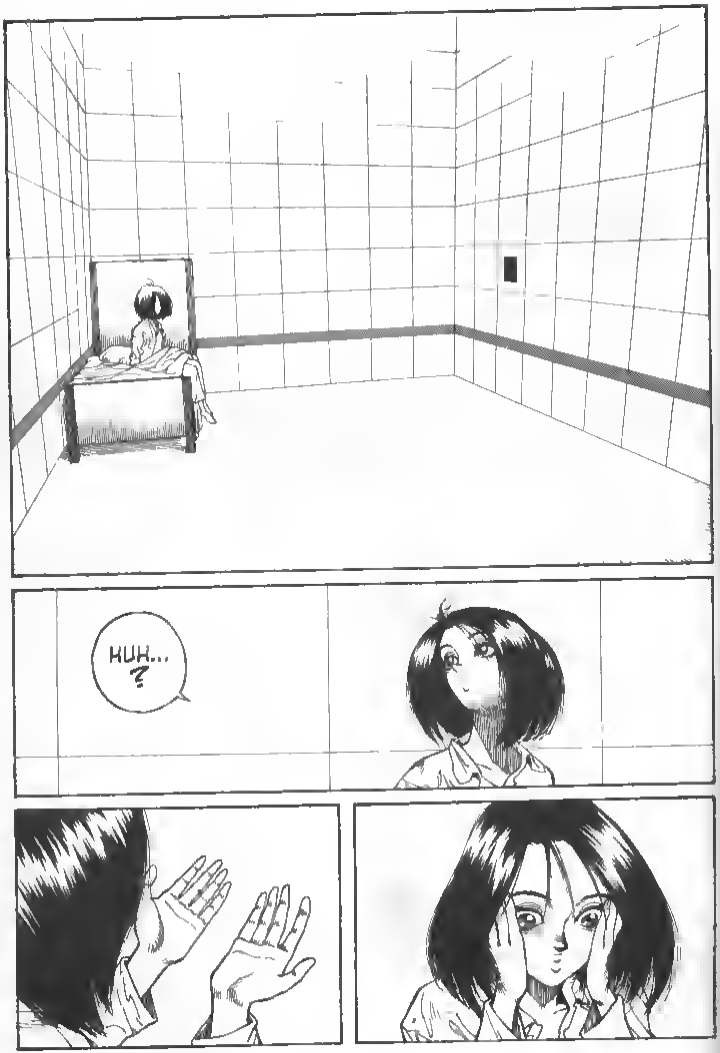
Journey 1: Judgment Day

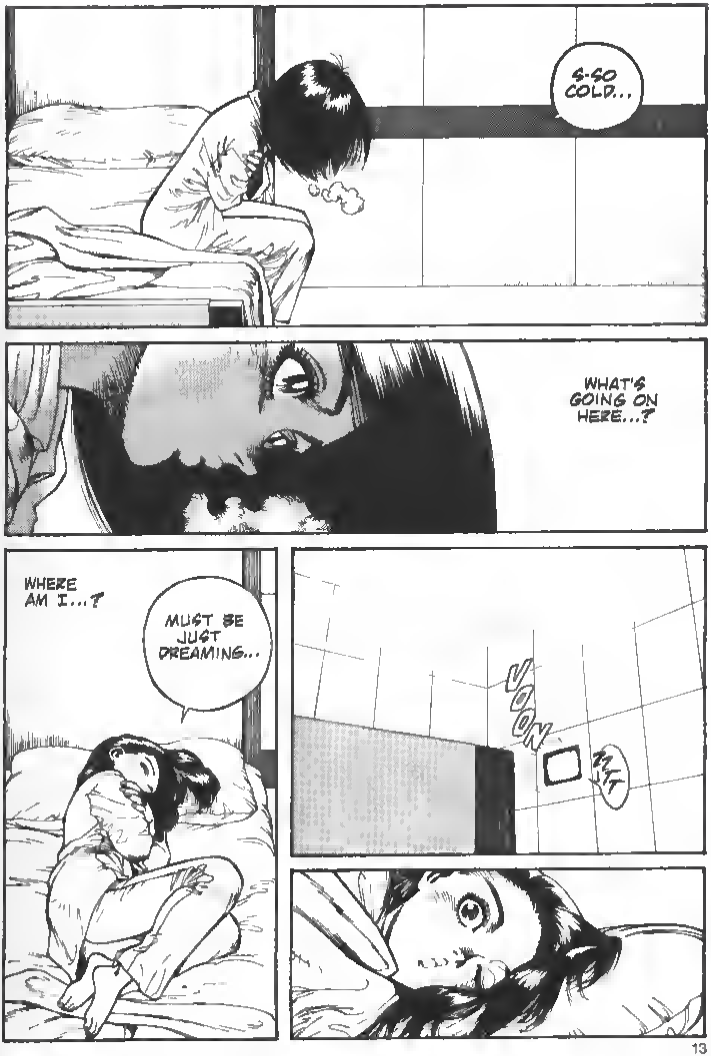
RMBVMMM
FACTORY 33
RMBMMM
HUNTAR WARRIAR REGISTRATION NUMBAR F33-405, "ALITA."

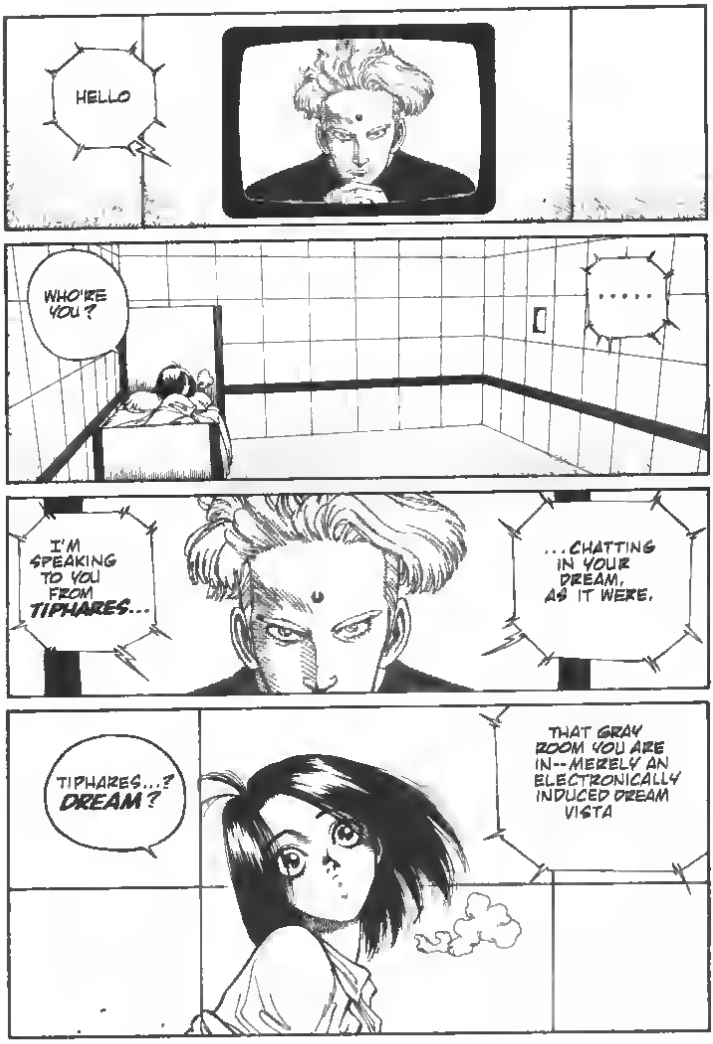
RMBVMMM
RMBVMMM
IS IT TRUWAH YOU WERE THE WUN THAT USED THIS GUN!?
ANSUH NOW!

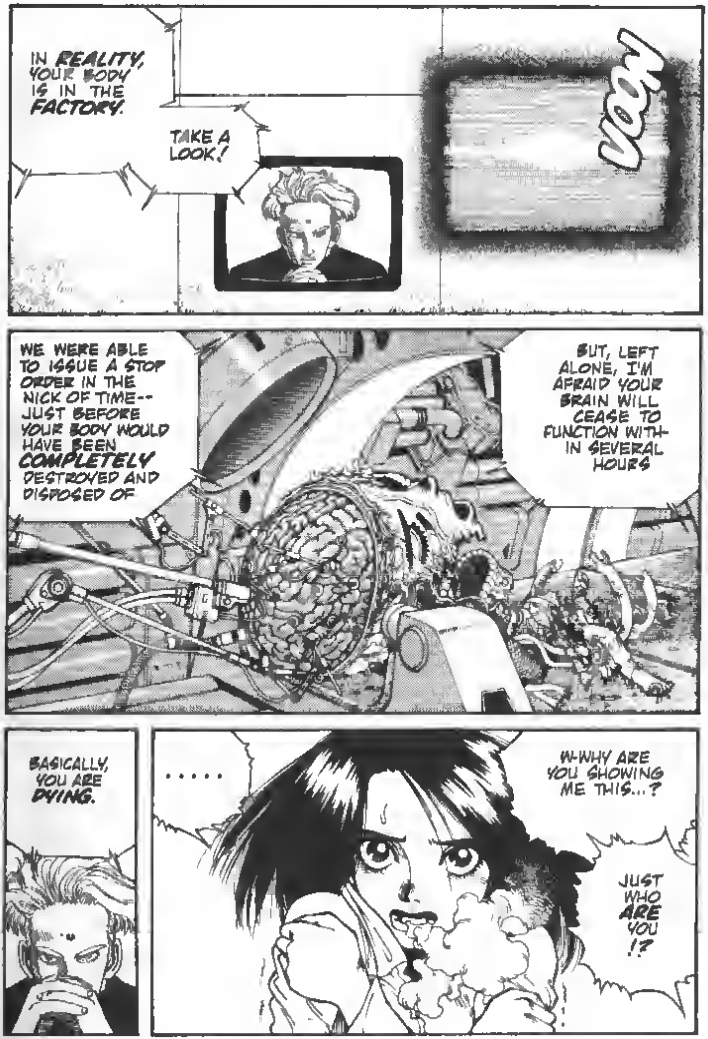

Y-YES...I DEFEATED THE BERSERKER BODY...ZAPAN WITH IT...
...IT WAS A TOUGH... BATTLE...
UNDER FACTORY LAWUH. USE OF A HANDGUN IS...
...CLASS A OFFENSE!
B-BUT WAIT...!
VOOMMMM

I SAVED THE WHOLE SCRAPYARD!
YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME--!
KAKEEENG

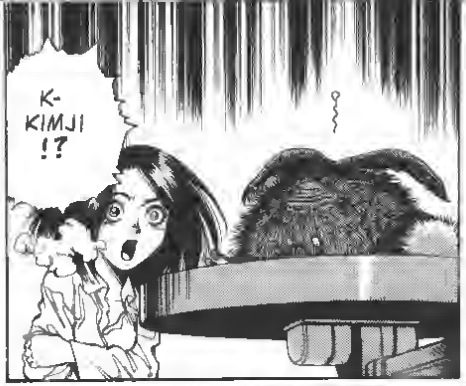

HUH...
?


S-SO COLD...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
WHERE AM I...?
MUST BE JUST DREAMING...
VOOM
ZZT

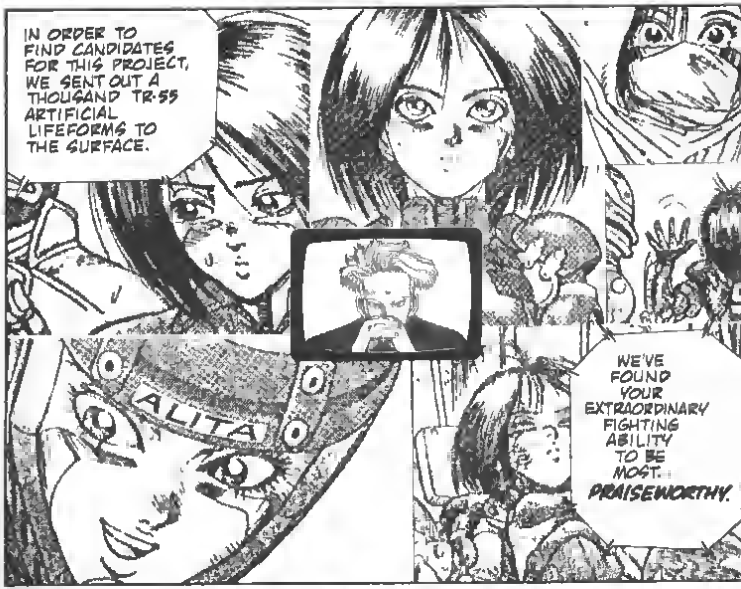

HELLO
WHO'RE YOU?
.....
I'M SPEAKING TO YOU FROM TIPHARES...
...CHATTING IN YOUR DREAM, AS IT WERE.
TIPHARES...? DREAM?
THAT GRAY ROOM YOU ARE IN--MERELY AN ELECTRONICALLY INDUCED DREAM VISTA


IN REALITY, YOUR BODY IS IN THE FACTORY.
TAKE A LOOK!
VOOM
WE WERE ABLE TO ISSUE A STOP ORDER IN THE NICK OF TIME-- JUST BEFORE YOUR BODY WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND DISPOSED OF
BUT, LEFT ALONE, I'M AFRAID YOUR BRAIN WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS
BASICALLY, YOU ARE DYING.
.....
W-WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS...?
JUST WHO ARE YOU !?

I CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.
I CAN CLEAR YOU OF THAT CLASS A CRIME
I CAN GIVE YOU A NEW BODY... A SECOND CHANCE
AND IN RETURN ?
HMPH !
WHY, YOU'LL WORK FOR THE GOOD OF TIPHARES, OF COURSE
A DECKMAN !? I'D RATHER ROT !
HAH!
UH NO
THIS IS A SPECIAL DUTY A DECKMAN CAN NOT PERFORM
VMMMM


K-
KIMJI
!?

WE HAVE BEEN MONITORING YOUR ACTIONS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THROUGH THE EYES OF THE TR-55.


IN ORDER TO FIND CANDIDATES FOR THIS PROJECT, WE SENT OUT A THOUSAND TR-55 ARTIFICIAL LIFEFORMS TO THE SURFACE.
ALITA
WE'VE FOUND YOUR EXTRAORDINARY FIGHTING ABILITY TO BE MOST... PRAISEWORTHY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! KIMJI? A RECONNAISSANCE LIFEFORM...!?

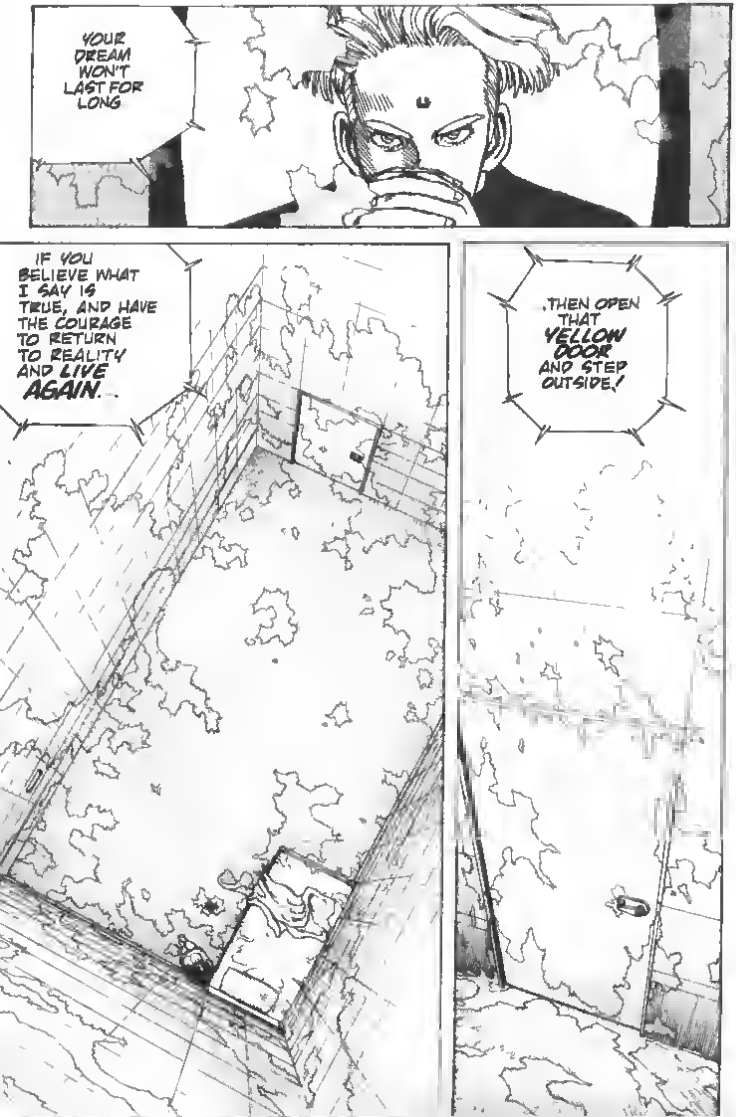
YOU FOUGHT EXTREMELY WELL...
.. BUT WHAT DID YOU GET IN RETURN ?
GALITA

YOU'RE AN OUTSIDER!
YOU'VE BROUGHT US NOTHING BUT TROUBLE !
WE NEED YOU TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF TO HIM!

STOP!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS!
D-DAMN YOU...
UUUNHH...
AAAAAAANHH...
UNTIL NOW, YOU HAVE BEEN LIKE A KNIFE OUT OF ITS SHEATH. A WEAPON WITH NO OWNER.
FROM NOW ON, WE WILL BE YOUR MASTER. WE WILL GIVE YOU A PURPOSE!
BECOME OUR TOOL, ALITA!

KLOP
HEH... HEH, HEH.. AHA, HA, HA, HA...
!?
HA, HA THIS IS A DREAM, RIGHT...?
I WON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY.. JUST A DREAM...
..AND I'M NOT LEAVING HERE...

...NO. IM JUST GOING TO STAY HERE FOREVER..

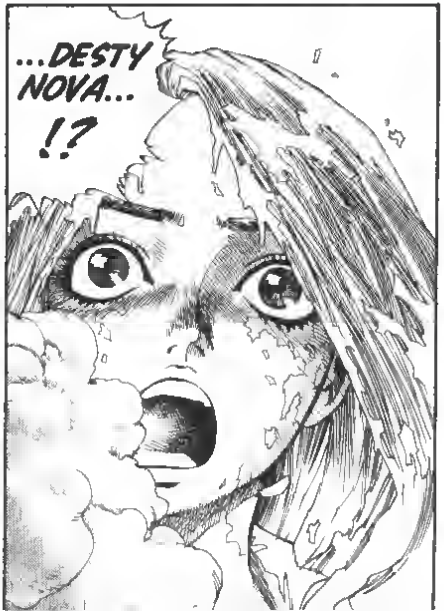

YOUR DREAM WON'T LAST FOR LONG
IF YOU BELIEVE WHAT I SAY IS TRUE, AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO RETURN TO REALITY AND LIVE AGAIN...
.THEN OPEN THAT YELLOW DOOR AND STEP OUTSIDE.!

...IF I BECOME A "TOOL" FOR TIPHARES...
...WILL I BECOME... STRONGER ?
OF COURSE

YOU WILL BECOME OUR MOST POWERFUL SURFACE AGENT-- THE FIRST OF THE "TUNED."
YOU WILL RECEIVE THE FINEST BACK UP-- IN TERMS OF INFORMATION, WEAPONRY, AND MAINTENANCE-- THAT TIPHARES HAS TO OFFER

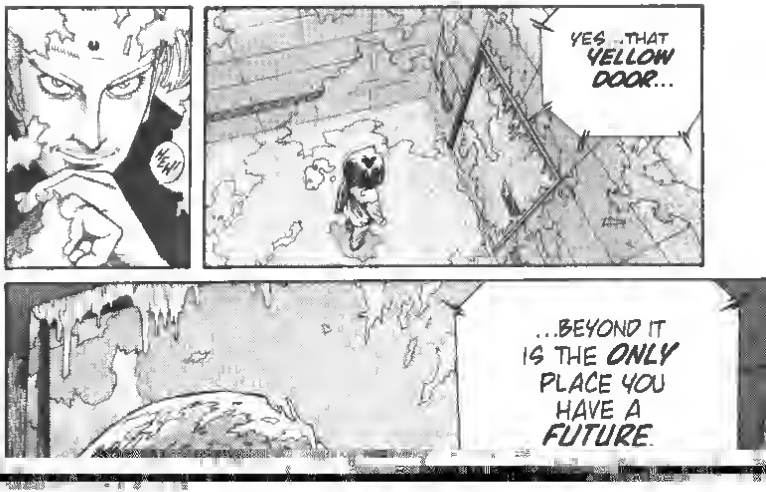
AS THE FIRST OF THE "TUNED" YOUR PRIMARY MISSION IS TO LOCATE AND ARREST...
. A SCIENTIST WHO DEFECTED FROM TIPHARES.. DESTY NOVA.

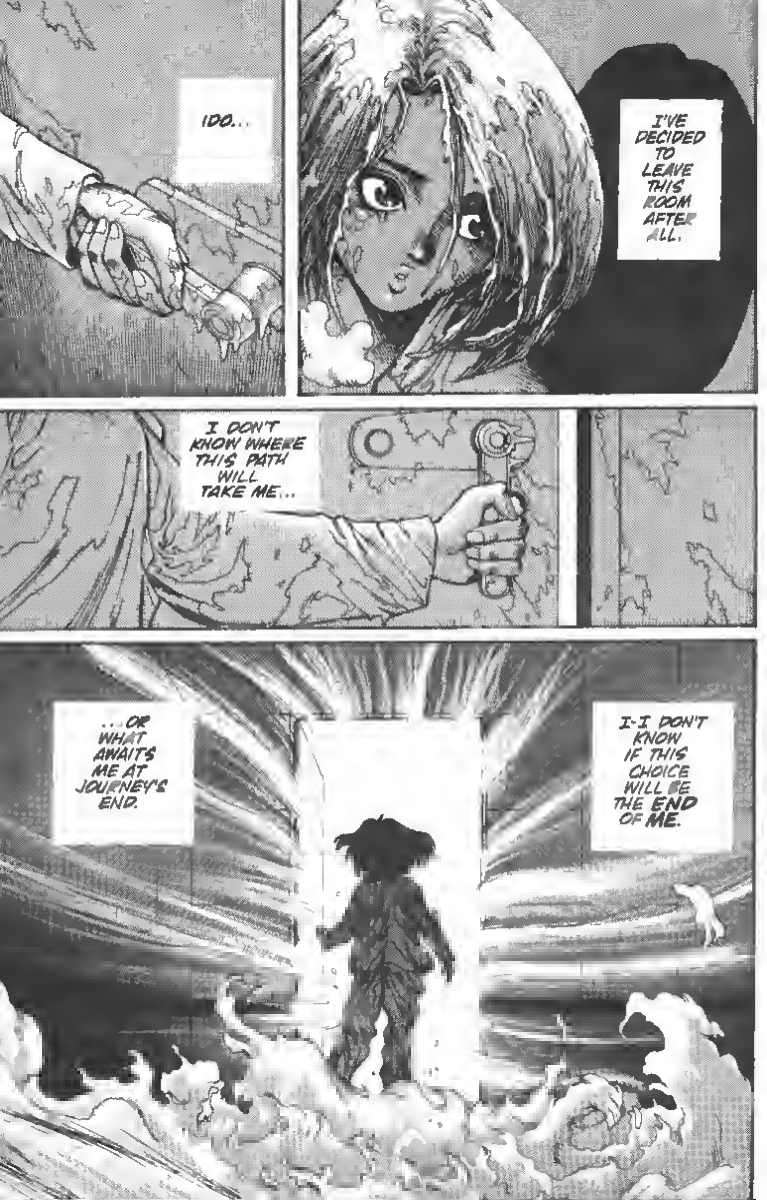
D-DES...


...DESTY NOVA...
!?

DOCTOR IDO...
...HAS "PASSED ON."
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ME TO HEAL IDO.
PROMISE ME...
IDO...
LEAVE IT TO ME.
IDO IS ALREADY MY PATIENT.

I HAVE TO GO SEE IDO!
KA-KREK


HEH!
YES ..THAT YELLOW DOOR...
...BEYOND IT IS THE ONLY PLACE YOU HAVE A FUTURE.


I DO...
I'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS ROOM AFTER ALL.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS PATH WILL TAKE ME...
...OR WHAT AWAITS ME AT JOURNEY'S END.
I-I DON'T KNOW IF THIS CHOICE WILL BE THE END OF ME.

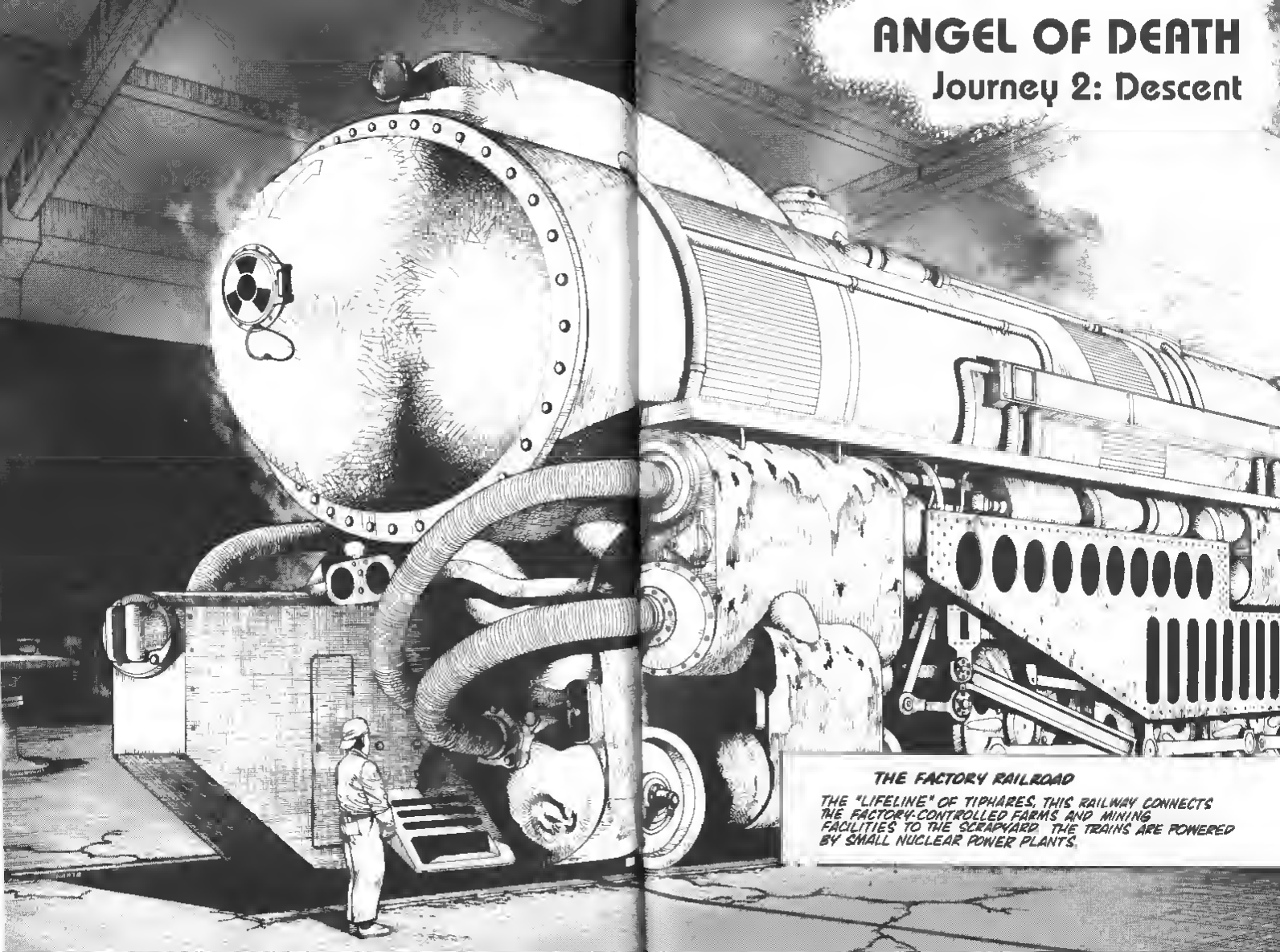
BUT...I PLAN TO GO AS FAR AS I CAN, BELIEVING IN MYSELF.

WITH ALL THE COURAGE I CAN FIND WITHIN...

THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE SCRAPYARD
FASHA
FASHA
THE HYDRO-WALL
A FOUNTAIN OF SUPER VISCOUS LIQUID, PROJECTED 20 METERS INTO THE AIR BY A HIGH-PRESSURE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PUMP, SURROUNDS THE OUTER BOUNDARY OF THE SCRAPYARD

ANGEL OF DEATH

Journey 2: Descent



THE FACTORY RAILROAD

THE "LIFELINE" OF TIPHARES, THIS RAILWAY CONNECTS THE FACTORY-CONTROLLED FARMS AND MINING FACILITIES TO THE SCRAPYARD. THE TRAINS ARE POWERED BY SMALL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

NOT AGAIN !
THOOP
REPORT
DAMN BANDITS -- HOW MANY TIMES A MONTH CAN THEY ATTACK ME!? WELL, WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?
WHUMP
FACTORY 10
15 km
AUTO REPAIRS

FIVE CARAVANS AND THEIR MERCENARY GUARDS WERE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT, WITH LOSSES EXCEEDING 40 MILLION CHIPS, MR VECTOR
AH, IN THE GOLDEN DAYS, ALL I HAD TO DO WAS PAY A "TOLL" AND THE BANDITS LEFT MY CARAVANS ALONE.
BUT EVER SINCE THAT MOBILE BANDIT BRIGADE "BAR JACK" SHOWED UP FIVE YEARS AGO, THINGS HAVE BEEN A REAL MESS
THOSE GUYS ARE CRAZY... IN THE SOUTHERN TERRITORY, THEY EVEN ATTACKED THE FACTORY RAILROAD AND STOLE AN ENTIRE TRAIN!
WITH THEM STARTING TO ATTACK FACTORY SHIPMENTS LIKE THIS IT THREATENS MY POSITION AS A BROKER
THE ONLY DATA WE HAVE ON "BAR JACK" IS THAT THEY'RE LED BY A MAN NAMED "DEN"

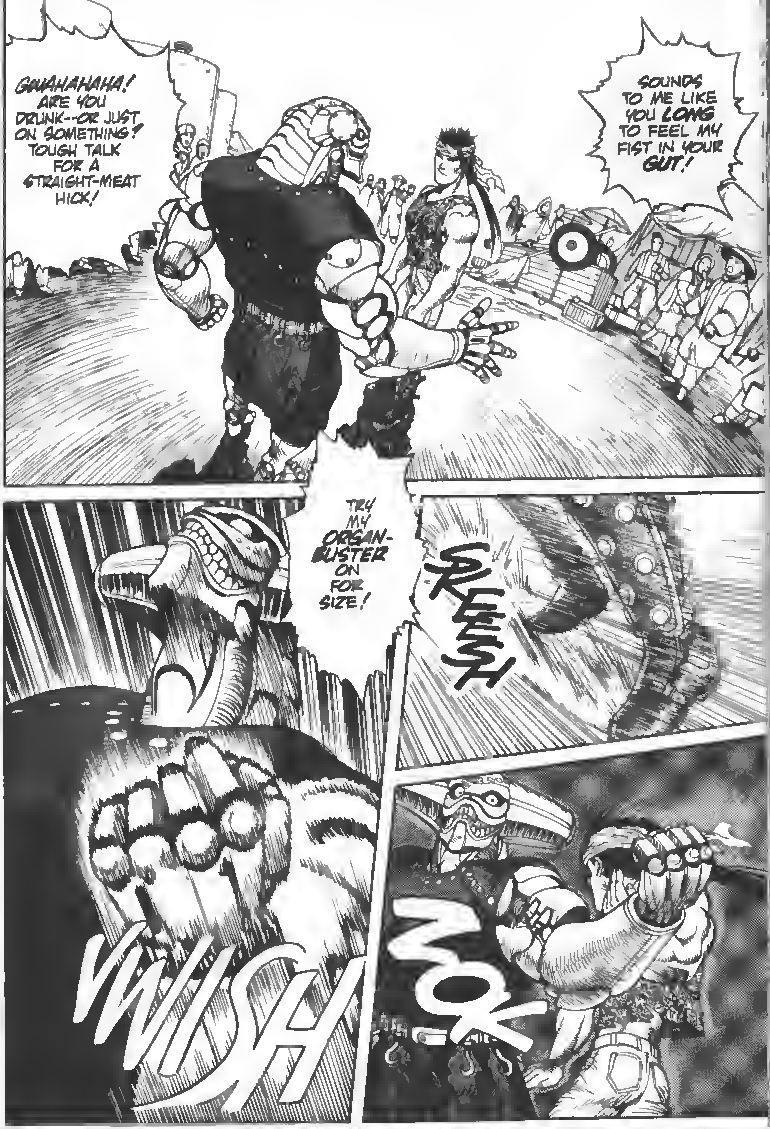
SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THIS "DEN"
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DETEST IT, I MUST WORK OUT ANOTHER "ARRANGEMENT" WITH THOSE BANDITS.
!?

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER ?
UH... IT'S NOTHING.
A TRICK OF THE LIGHT ?
THAT GIRL WAS TAKEN BY THE FACTORY AND TERMINATED MANY YEARS AGO.
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE ?
YES, IT REGARDS THE SECURITY FOR THE NEXT TRAIN...
...THE RUMORS ABOUT "BAR JACK" ARE SCARING AWAY MOST OF THE APPLICANTS. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MERCENARIES TO GUARD THE TRAIN.
DOUBLE THE PAY FOR SIGNING UP!
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT GETTING MORE WEAPONS OUT OF THE FACTORY THIS IS THEIR BABY AS MUCH AS MINE...
SHAP

AIL MERCENARY
BE ALL YA CAN BE--JOIN THE RAIL MERCENARIES! A HUNNERD THOUSAND CHIPS EVER' WEEK--MEALS INCLUDED!
WE'RE TAKIN' ON THE FIRST FOURTEEN APPLICANTS!
D-02
ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS SIT IN A TRAIN, AN' YA MAKE LOADS OF MONEY! YA CAN'T FIND A BETTER JOB!
FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND A MONTH... NOT BAD.
THE LINE BEGINS HERE!
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

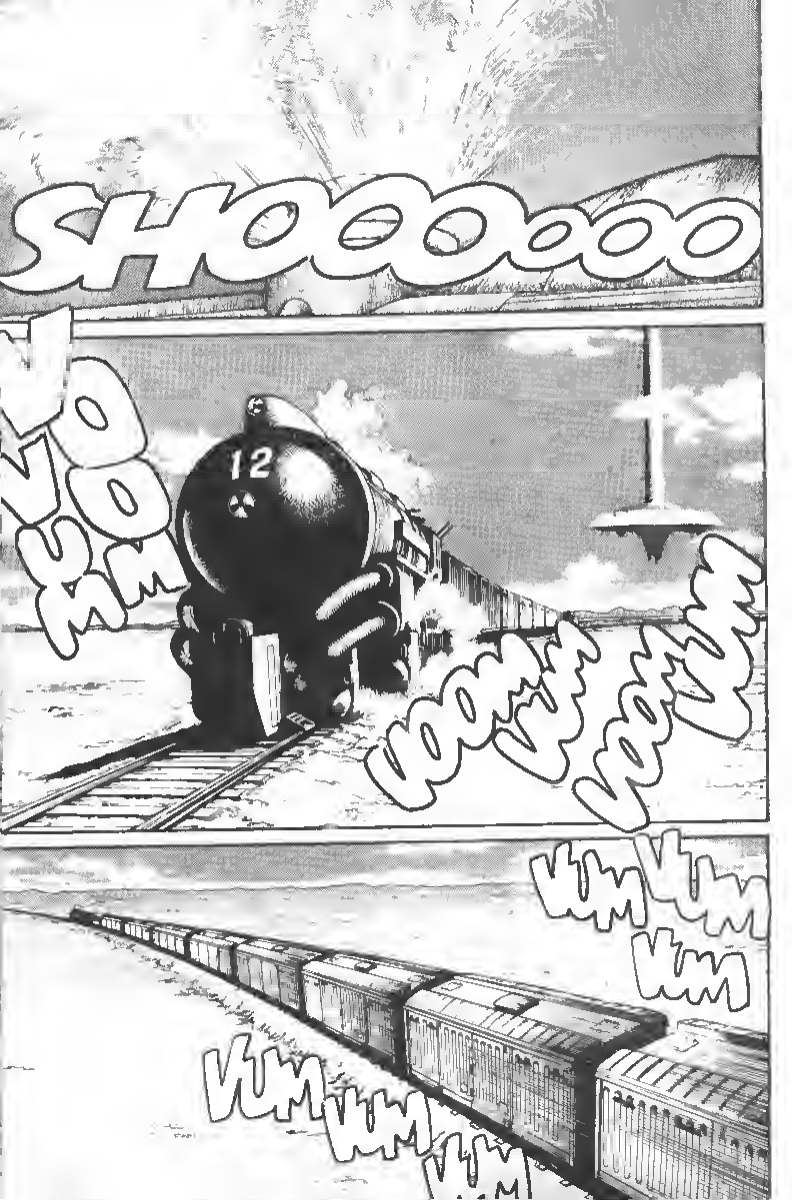
DEPARTMENT OFFICE
BOUNCE HUNTER
HEH... THOSE GUYS ARE HUNTER-WARRIORS FROM THE SCRAPYARD-- BUT NONE OF 'EM'S EVER SHOT A GUN ..
IDIOTS... THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO GO UP AGAINST THE BARJACK!
SORRY, WE GOT FOURTEEN ALREADY
OH... IS THAT SO?
WELL, THEN...
HE-H!
BLOCK
..NOW THERE'S ROOM FOR ME, RIGHT ?
KAKRESH
02

HEY, YOU OKAY, MAN?
TONK
.....
HOLD IT ONE SECOND!
NOW, WHY IN THE WORLD DO YOU CYBERS FROM THE YARD NEVER SEEM TO HAVE ANY MANNERS!?
FUP
FU!
HMM? YOU TALKING TO ME, PUNK?
GUYS LIKE YOU--LINE-CUTTERS WHO KNOW NO GUILT--YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!


GWAHAHAHA! ARE YOU DRUNK--OR JUST ON SOMETHING? TOUGH TALK FOR A STRAIGHT-MEAT HICK!
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU LONG TO FEEL MY FIST IN YOUR GUT!
TRY MY ORGAN-BUSTER ON FOR SIZE!
SLEESH
WUSH
NOK

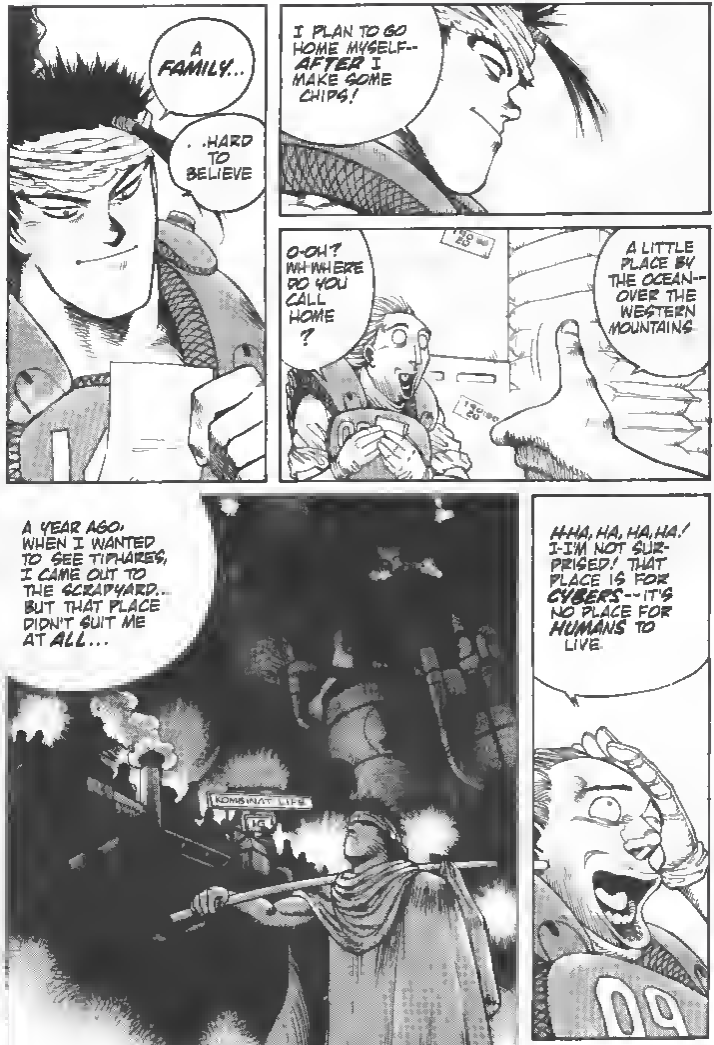
HYU!
KA FWAP
SHAA
KRAK

KRAKKA
KA
WHOA! THAT GUY TOOK OUT A CYBORG, BARE-HANDED!
IS HE DEAD?
NAW, JUST OUT WITH A SLIGHT CONCUSSION.
YOU'RE NOT HALF BAD. SIGN THE CONTRACT...
HEH, HEH, HEH...
CAN'T READ, HUH? NO PROBLEM.
...WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
FIGURE FOUR!


SHOOOOOO
VOOOOM
12
VUM VUM VUM
VUM VUM VUM

CHUM CHUM CHUM CHUM
I-I SAW THAT FIGHT YOU HAD,, YOU WERE GREAT.
WANT MY RATIONS TOO?
J-JUST ASK ME ANYTHING. IT'S YOUR FIRST TOUR, RIGHT?
M-MY NAME'S YOLG!
I-IF YOU MOVE YOUR GUN LIKE THIS, IT WON'T B-BUMP AGAINST THOSE SHOULDER BLADES OF YOURS
TAK
YOLG. HUH...? THANKS.
THIS GUN'S GONNA GET IN THE WAY IN THE BATHROOM-- CAN YOU TAKE IT OFF?
I-IT'S LIKE A NICE DOG COLLAR. RENTA GUNS CAN'T BE REMOVED, N-NOT WHILE YOU'RE UNDER CONTRACT.
T-TRY TO TAKE IT OFF-- OR IF YOU STRAY TOO FAR FROM THE TRAIN--AND THE EXPLOSIVES HERE'LL R-RIP YOUR HEAD OFF.!
HEHEH
THAT'S ROUGH..

W-HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE B-BARRACK ?
THAT GROUP THAT SUPPOSEDLY STOLE A WHOLE TRAIN ?
R-RUMORS SAY THEY FOUND A BIG CACHE OF OLD FIREARMS FROM THE RUINS OF THE LAST CENTURY... P-POWERFUL GOODS!
M-MOST OF MY FRIENDS GOT SCARED AND DIDN'T SIGN ON AGAIN.
THEN WHY DID YOU STAY ON?
T-THIS TRAIN IS HEADED TOWARD FARM 22 I'VE GOT A W-WIFE AND KID, THERE.
S-SEE ?
09


A FAMILY...
. .HARD TO BELIEVE
I PLAN TO GO HOME MYSELF-- AFTER I MAKE SOME CHIPS!
O-OH? WH-WHERE DO YOU CALL HOME?
A LITTLE PLACE BY THE OCEAN-- OVER THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS
A YEAR AGO, WHEN I WANTED TO SEE TIPHARES, I CAME OUT TO THE SCRAPYARD... BUT THAT PLACE DIDN'T SUIT ME AT ALL...
KOMBINAT LIFE
HA-HA, HA, HA, HA! I-I'M NOT SURPRISED! THAT PLACE IS FOR CYBERS--IT'S NO PLACE FOR HUMANS TO LIVE.

VWOO OOOO
TAIL BOX
TAIL BOX
TAIL BOX

SHOOOOOSH
AHHH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET.
GUESS THE WIDE OPEN PLAINS DO SUIT ME BETTER THAN THE CITY.

!

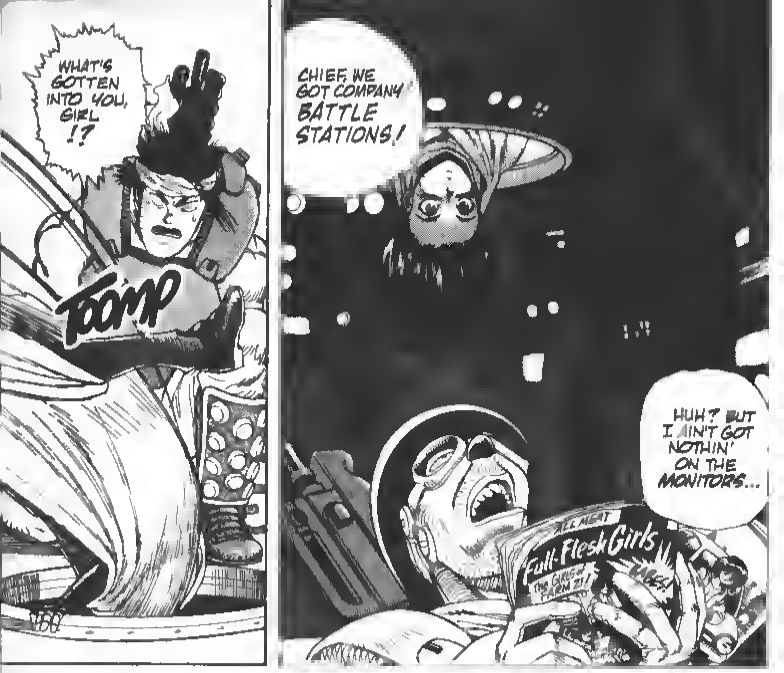
Y-YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM THAT WOMAN..
SHE ISN'T WEARING A RENTA-GUN.. AIN'T SHE A MERCENARY ?
E EVEN THE MERCENARY CHIEF DOESN'T KNOW WHO SHE IS...
TH-THEY SAY SHE HAS SOME SORT OF LINK TO THE F-FACTORY.. E-EVERYONE THINKS SHE IS THE "ANGEL OF DEATH"!
Y-YOU LOSE A YEAR OFF YOUR LIFE FOR EVERY WORD YOU SPEAK TO HER...
H-HEY !

HEH, HEH, HEH...
I PLAY THE HARMONICA PRETTY GOOD MYSELF...
SNOW
HA HA
WANK
WELL, I USED TO BE GOOD-- AS A KID...
HA, HA, HA-- JUST WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY...?

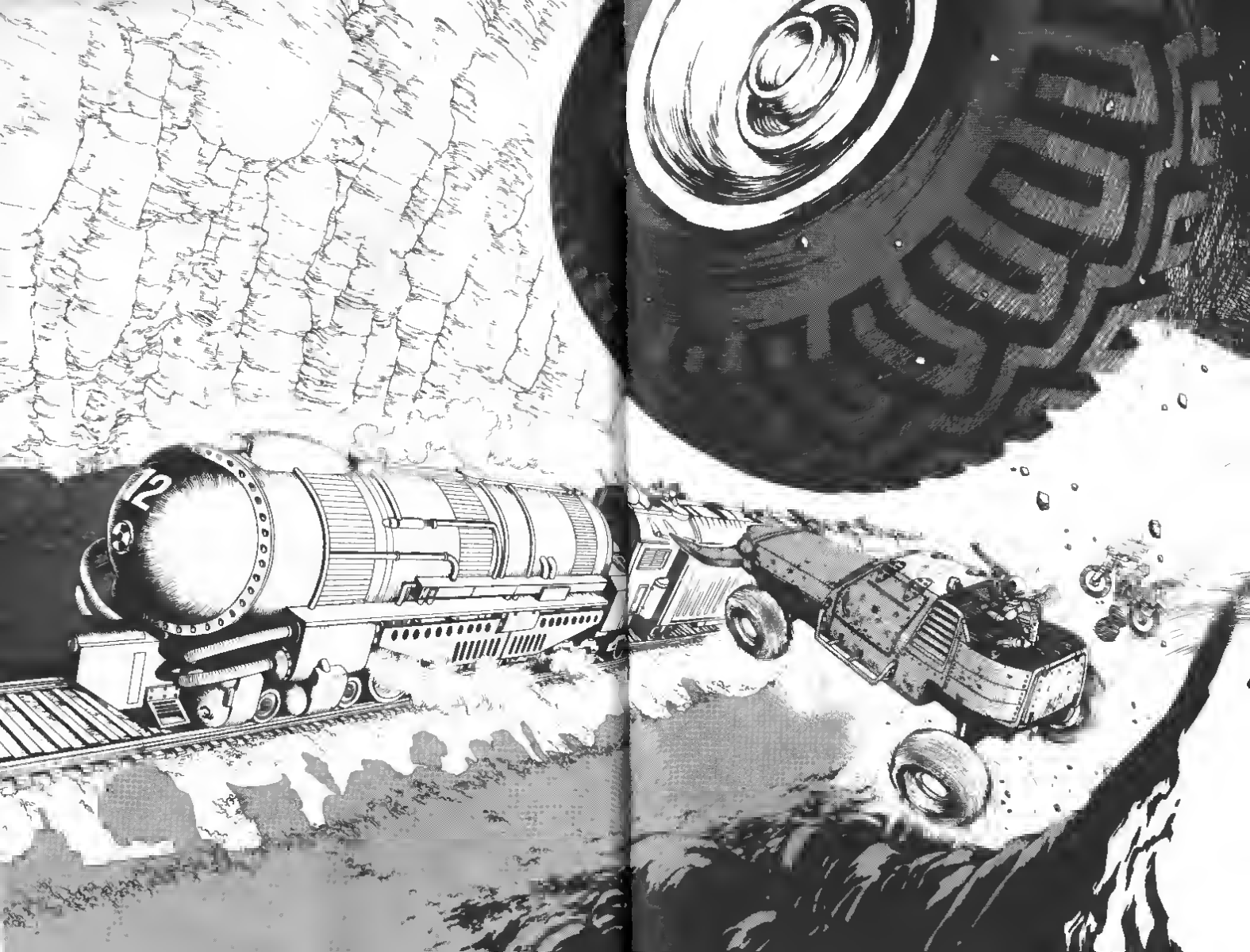
THE NAME'S FIGURE FOUR... AND YOU?
...ALITA.
HEY, THIS IS SOME RIFLE YOU GOT HERE. WHAT'EE YOU GONNA DO, ALITA--START A WAR?
SKUK
TUP
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, MISTER FOUR IF YOU GET TOO INVOLVED WITH ME...
..YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF IN AN EARLY GRAVE HAPPENS TO EVERYONE..

FEH... DON'T YOU TRY TO SCARE--
WHAT IS IT!?
--WHOA!
SSSH
VUM
VUM
.....!?

VEEEM
CHIK
VEEEM
ENEMY-
BUGGY-15
ARMS-ON
BAY
RMG
GSG
BIKE-18
A1,
ACKNOWLEDGED
!


WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, GIRL !?
FOOMP
CHIEF, WE GOT COMPANY! BATTLE STATIONS!
HUH? BUT I AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON THE MONITORS...
Full-Flesh Girls
HOW 'BOUT YOU, NUMBER 5?
CLEAR AS CRYSTAL ON THE ANTI-INCOMING RADAR AND INFRARED SENSORS! HEY, HEY, HEY!
HEAR THAT? NO WORRIES!
FOOP

THERE'S AN AMBUSH-- FIFTEEN BUGGIES AND EIGHTEEN MOTORCYCLES AT TWO O'CLOCK... DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF DEATH WISH?
UH...
WAH!
KAPASH
RED ALERT! RED ALERT!
KAPANK
AAAGH!
SAFETY LOCKS RELEASED! ALL PERSONNEL, PREPARE FOR COMBAT!
ZWOK
HAAAGH!
HEY! WATCH IT, IDIOT!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
WHERE ARE THEY!?


12

VROOOOM
OH, NO! THEY REALLY ARE ATTACKIN'!
VOOOOOM

!
CHIEF! STOP THE TRAIN!
WHAT!? AT A TIME LIKE THIS? ARE YOU NUTS!?
A "CLASS A" COMMAND TAKES PRIORITY! STOPPING THE TRAIN WHEEE!
WHAT!? NO! DON'T DO IT, YOU IDIOT!
D-02
SKREEEE
SKEE
EEEECH

KABOOM
SKRK
NOOOO!
THE TRACK!
DAMN! WE WON'T STOP IN TIME!
!?
KWUMP

SKLOOM
KANGLANG
tail box
SKREEE

VROOM!
VRUMM!
VRRRM!
VRRR!
DMX
Tail Box
HAAAA! KILL EVERY ONE OF THEM!
YE !

BWOOSH
!?
HAAHAA
SAAA
SAAA
AAAAA

BRATTA
BRATTA
BWAM
SKREE
SKREE
UWAH!
ALARMS? OH, THAT'S RIGHT... I WAS THROWN CLEAR OF THE TRAIN WHEN IT CRASHED!
I WONDER WHERE THE OTHERS..?
OUCH
WARNING. WARNING.
4
YOU HAVE STRAYED OVER TWENTY METERS FROM THE TRAIN! RETURN IMMEDIATELY!
WAAAH!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
YEEEE!
WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE WITH THE TRAIN LIKE THIS!

WAAAH
BWOM
BWOM
BWOM
IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY, YOUR ACTION WILL BE DEEMED AS DESERTION, AND THIS PACK WILL EXPLODE IN TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS.
....
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
W-WAIT... PLEASE!
YOLG!
HANG ON!
M-MY LEG'S BROKEN!
I-IT HURTS! OOOOOH..
!?

BLAM
SPLORT
UH!
FIFTEEN SECONDS TO SELF-DESTRUCT.
VRRRRRM
HMM?

KYAAAH!
RRRRRR
CHAK
YOU BASTARD!
BRATATATATA

SKURKTURK
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
KRM KRM KRM
HEH!
KADONK
SECRET WEAPON
SSSSS
TONK

BWA
BAM
DAMN!
KLIK KLIK
10 SECONDS TO SELF-DESTRUCT
THE GUN--JAMMED! WHY ME?!
SKREE
9

HEY, GIMME YOUR GUN!
AAAAH! H-HELP ME! HELP!
7
HEH!
8
KA-BOOM
HAAAAA!

HOLD STILL.
WHUMP
!?
BABOOSH

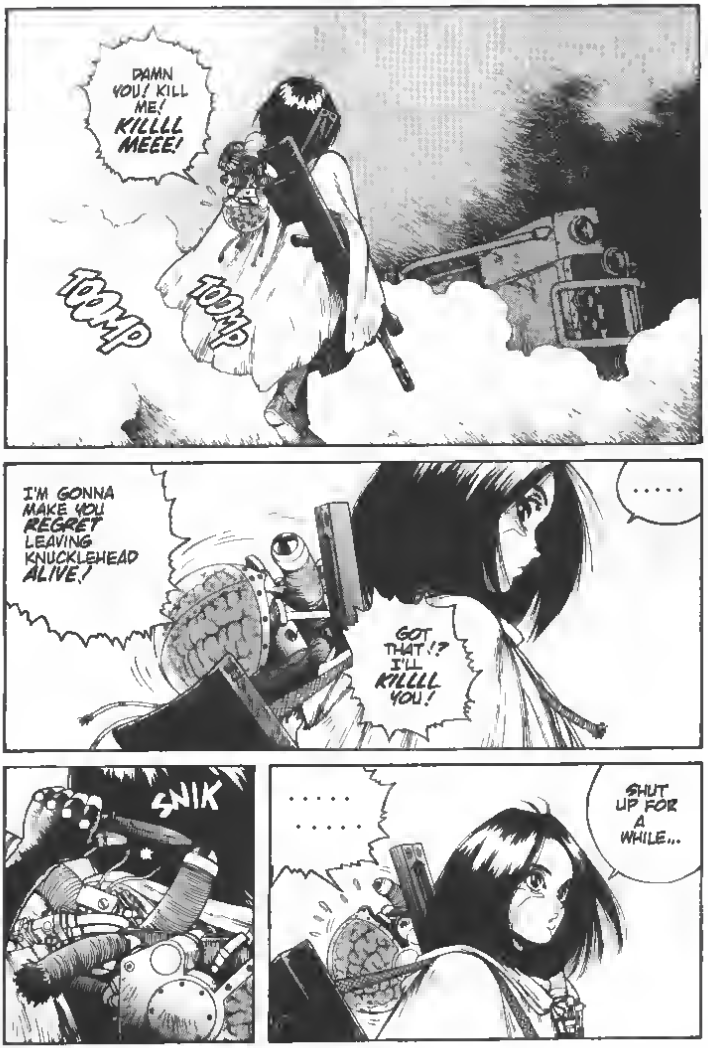
BOOT
BWAM
KREKKATEK
GAH!

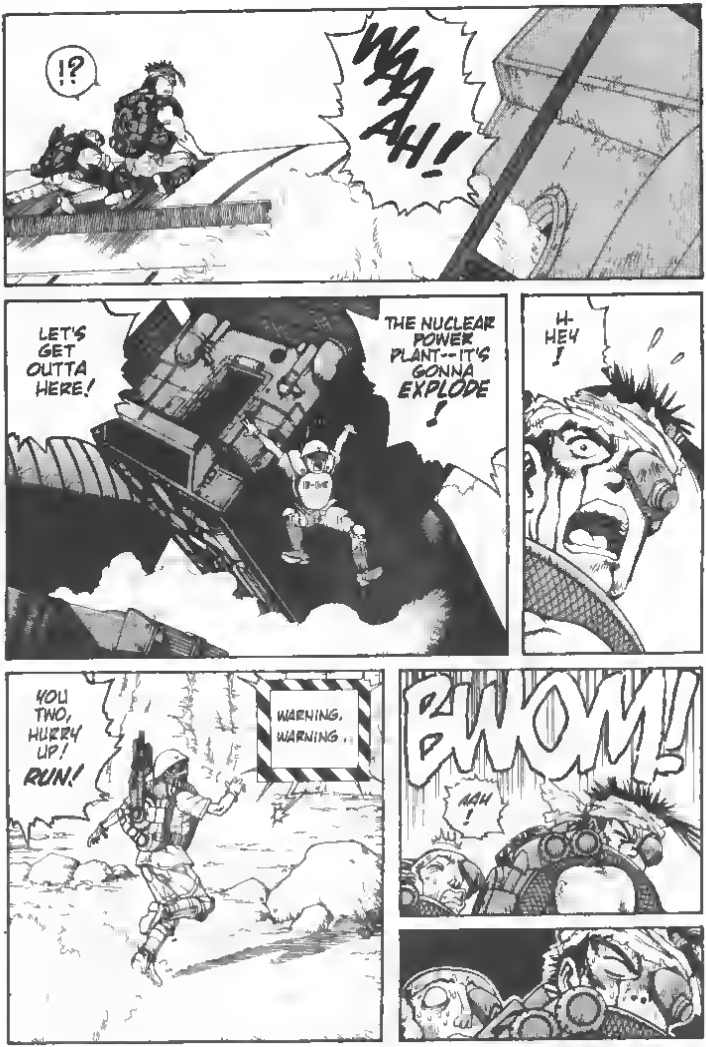
HA!
6
FWAM
FOOM
WHOA!
HA HA!
BLAM BLAM BLAM

THUD
SHOW ME THE WAY TO YOUR BOSS!
YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW ME THE WAY..
UNGH!
FWOK
SELF DESTRUCT SYSTEM DEACTIVATED
PLEASE RETURN TO DUTY
...I PEED MY PANTS A LITTLE...

NUCLEAR WINDS
Journey 3: Pride

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THAT GIRL DID ALL THIS-- BY HERSELF..!?

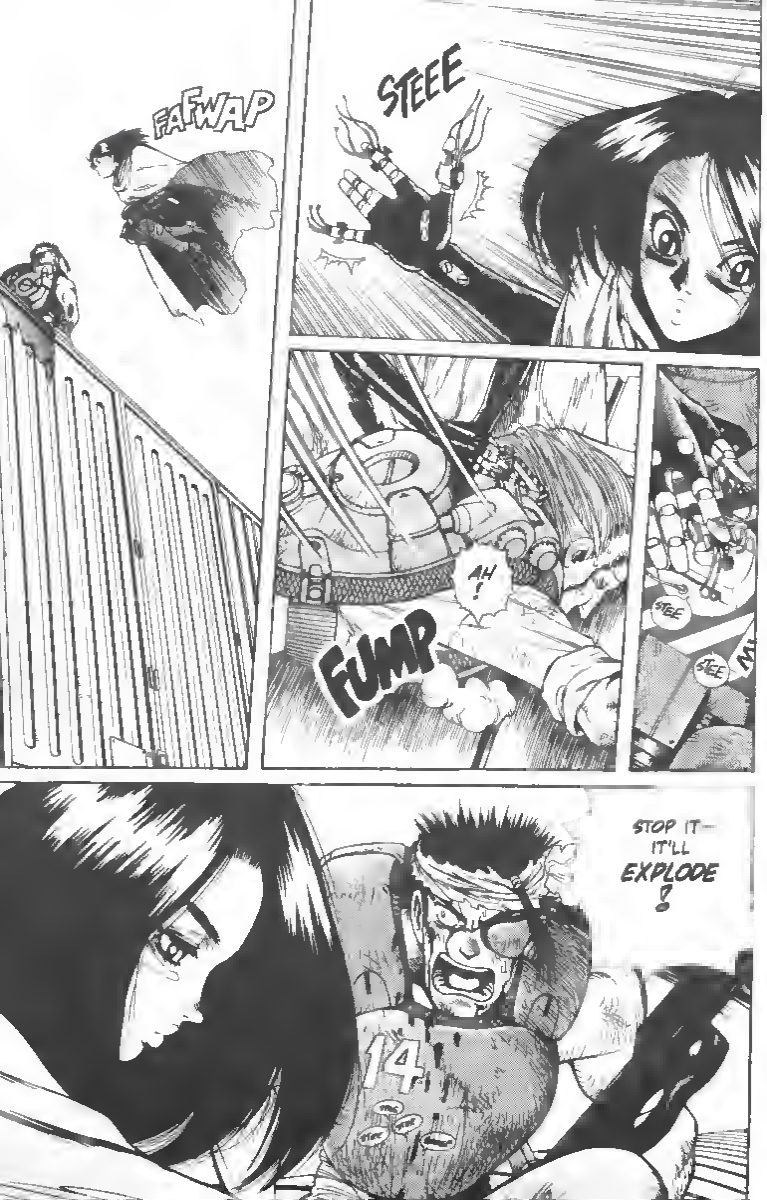

DAMN YOU! KILL ME! KILLLL MEEE!
TOOMP
TOOMP
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU REGRET LEAVING KNUCKLEHEAD ALIVE!
.....
GOT THAT!? I'LL KILLLL YOU!
SNIK
.....
.....
SHUT UP FOR A WHILE...


!?
WAAAH!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT--IT'S GONNA EXPLODE!
H-HEY!
YOU TWO, HURRY UP! RUN!
WARNING, WARNING...
BWOOM!
AAH!

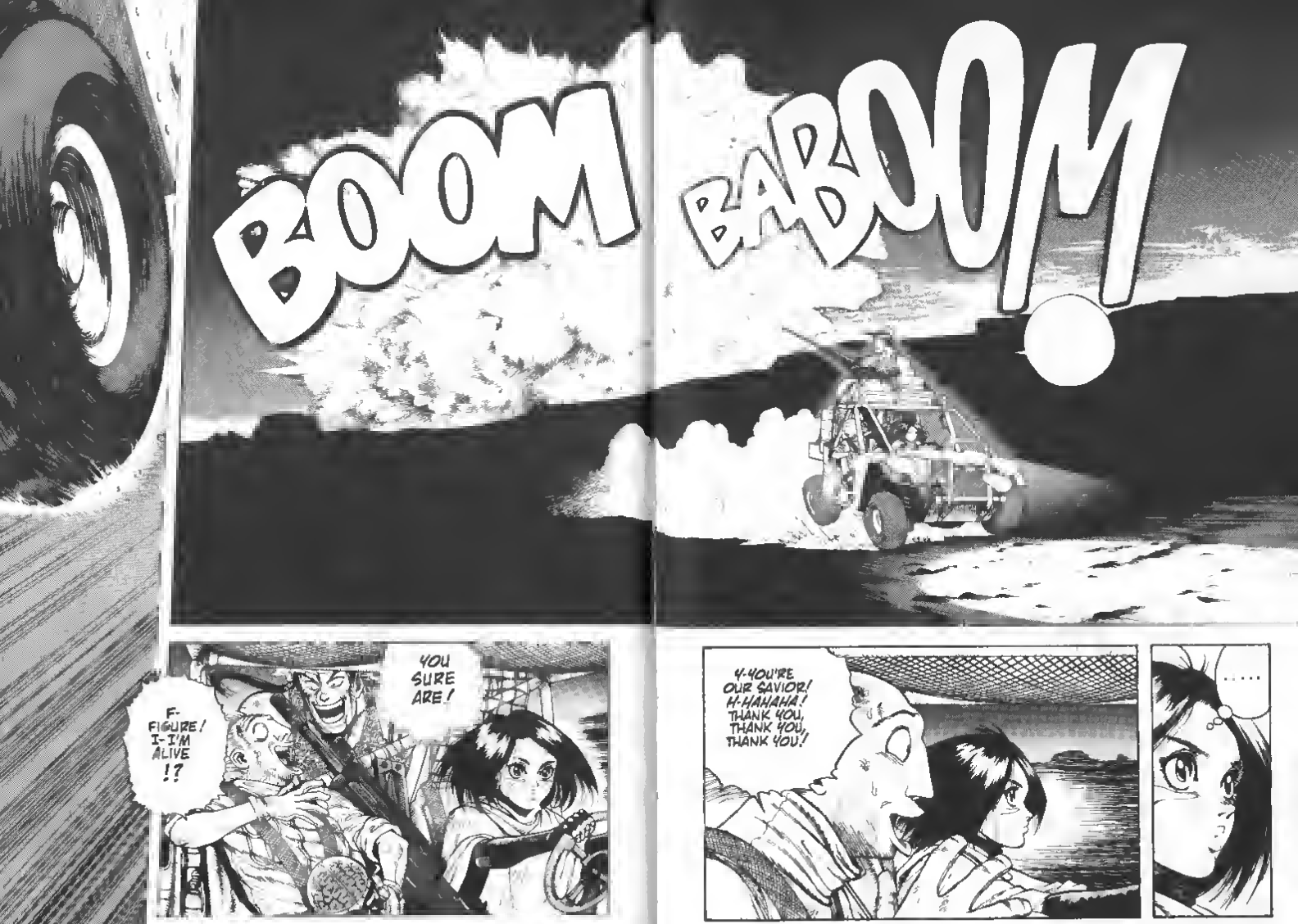
FIRST WE GET ATTACKED.. NOW A MELTDOWN !?
RMB RMBRMBRMB
HELP MEEEE I'M MELTDOWN! FIFTEEN MINUTES LEFT!
SHAA
EXIT
WE CAN'T RUN UNTIL YOU GET THESE RENT-A-GUNS OFF US!
SHSSSH
RMBRMB
THAT'S VERY UNFORTUNATE! THE RENT-A-GUN MAINTENANCE COMPUTER WAS DAMAGED WHEN THE TRAIN DERAILED DAISY DAISY..
WHA'D YOU SAY!?
O-OH NO!
14

SSSSSS
SAAA
12
SHSSHH
RMBRMBRMB
AAAHH!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
FWSSSH
HFFF
UFFF
HFFF
UFFF
PAP PAP
FEH! TALK ABOUT BAD LUCK...!
IF MY OPPONENT'S A NUCLEAR REACTOR, THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW

VREMSH
VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM VRM
HURRY UP, ALITA! YOU CAN STILL GET AWAY!
THERE'S NO POINT GETTIN' CAUGHT IN THIS--- YOU'RE NO MERCENARY

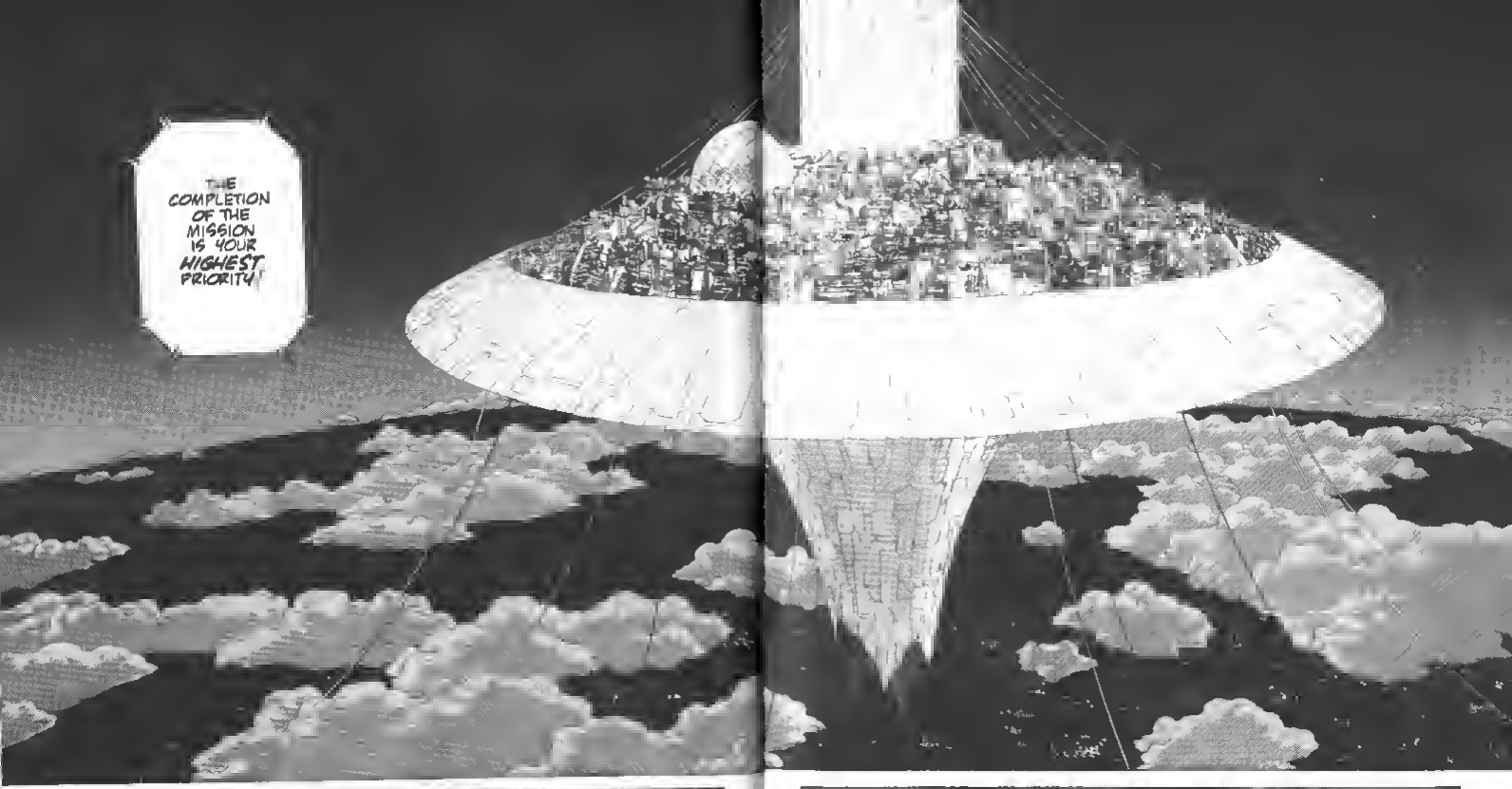

FAFWAP
STEEE
AH!
FUMP
STEE
STEE
STOP IT—
IT'LL
EXPLODE
!
14

!
KANGTANG
HIT'S OFF !?
J-JUST WHO...
...IN THE WORLD ARE YOU!?
WHO AM I...?
JUST SOMEONE WHO MADE A DEAL WITH MEPHISTOPHELES...


BOOM
BABOOM!
F-FIGURE! I-I'M ALIVE!?
YOU SURE ARE!
Y-YOU'RE OUR SAVIOR! H-HAHAHA! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
.....

THE STARS-- THEY SEEM EXTRA BRIGHT TONIGHT
HUH? THAT SHOOTIN' STAR LOOKS FUNNY.
H-HEH HEH-- DONTCHA KNOW? THAT'S A UFO!
WONDER WHERE ALITA WENT...
THE GIRL WITH THE DIFFERENT EYES.
Y-YOU GOT ME...
...B-BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM HER! SHE'LL SHORTEN YOUR LIFE! R-REALLY!
SHE SAVES YOUR SKIN, AND YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT CRAP!?
TONK
B-BUT YOU KNOW..

.....
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR MISSION AS ONE OF THE TUNED, AI?
BUT...
NO BUTS, AI!
SHAAA


THE COMPLETION OF THE MISSION IS YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF SEARCHING FOR DEST4 NOVA... WE FINALLY HAVE A LEAD!
TIPHARES--GROUND INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

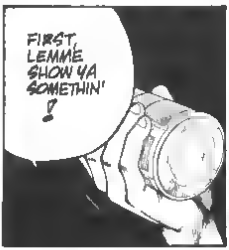
THAT MOBILE BRIGAND FORCE BARJACK MUST BE BACKED BY NOVA.
GO... AND CAPTURE HIM.
G.I.B. CHIEF BIGOTT EIZENBURG

ROGER...
YO! WHY DONTCHA COME DOWN AND EAT WITH US?
!
WHAT!? YOU'RE TELLING ME TO WALK THIS DESERT WITH AN INJURED MAN!?
YES.
I-I HAVE TO BE ON MY WAY.
YOU TWO WILL ONLY SLOW ME DOWN, SO I'M LEAVING YOU HERE.
YERRGH..
TLONK

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU AND YOUR ATTITUDE, MISS "ANGEL OF DEATH"!
COME AND FIGHT ME LIKE A MAN!
FOR A "MAN" WHO BARELY ESCAPED WITH HIS HIDE INTACT, YOU'RE PRETTY LIVELY..!
FSSH
ALL RIGHT, THEN
KACHIK
THWUMP

HEH, HEH, HEH...

DON'T YOU GO UNDERESTIMATIN' ME 'CAUSE I'M NOT A CYBER LIKE YOU, ALITA...!
VER UP AGAINST THE TOUGHEST OF OPPONENTS, YA HEAR ME?! THE ROUGHEST..


FIRST, LEMME SHOW YA SOMETHIN'!

SSSSSS

FOOP
MEAT
WHEEEHOO!
TRSHTRSH
MEAT
MEAT
HYAA!
FWAM

VOOP
KA
BOOM
CANNED FOOD MISSILE !
SPOOO

FSH
TONK TONK
HE CAN USE THE HEITZA HAEON-- WITH A HUMAN BODY?
HEH! THAT WAS ONE OF MY ANTI-CYBER MARTIAL ARTS* TECHNIQUES...
YOU AND I KNOW IT'S IM-POSSIBLE TO BREAK THROUGH A CYBER'S ARMOR! BUT MY BLOWS GO THROUGH THE ARMOR TO THE INSIDES-- CRUSHES YOUR BRAINS!
I'VE DEFEATED THIRTY-FIVE CYBERS TO DATE! AND A THOUSAND'S MY GOAL!

*ANTI-CYBER MARTIAL ARTS: ONE OF THE AGUAN ARTS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CREATED BY A JAPANESE GENERAL DURING THE NARA PERIOD (EIGHTH CENTURY), LATER UPDATED INTO A MARTIAL ART OF BRAWLING.

HEH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, A1?! LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
!
IF THAT MAN IS IN YOUR WAY, YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO SHOOT HIM!
CONTROL.. LET ME HAVE SOME FUN OCCASIONALLY. GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME
DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PENT-UP FRUSTRATION*?
*COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ALITA AND CONTROL ARE INTERNAL AND CANNOT BE HEARD BY FIGURE
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO LET THESE TYPES PASS ME BY...
.....
ALL RIGHT, YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES.
THANKS, CHIEF BIGOTT.

SO, WHAT'S THE MATTER, ANGEL-GIRL? SCARED OF A LITTLE ACTION?
WELL, IF THE MOUNTAIN WON'T COME TO THE MOLEHILL..
!
SKEESH
!!
I CAN'T STAND HER CONDESCENDING OCTOPUS LIPS!
WOSH

FWAP
-SSPOOOOOO
GUAA URF...
S SO FAST..!?

HA, HA... WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS A LITTLE CARELESS, THAT'S ALL.
I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET SERIOUS
ONE STEP CLOSER AND I'LL BE IN EFFECTIVE RANGE FOR THE "TEA!"* ATTACKS!
ONCE I GET THAT CLOSE, MY TECHNIQUES ARE UNBEATABLE!
TOOF TA-SHOOF
PEEK-A-BOO!
SHOO

* TEAI--IN FIGURE'S MARTIAL ART (KOPPO), MANY ATTACKS ARE BASED ON OPEN-PALMED STRIKES (SHOTEI), WHICH USE THE ELBOW AS THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN. PUNCHES LIKE ALITA'S, ON THE OTHER HAND, ORIGINATE AT THE SHOULDER. IN CLOSING THE DISTANCE TO TEAI RANGE, FIGURE GAINS AN ADVANTAGE.

KATOOF
!
TOK
ACK!
SQEE
SQEE
SPOW
TOK
POOMP
ERGH!
FWM
GAH! MY ARMS..!
SKWAM

HEH. NOW, DO YOU GIVE UP?
TOP
GRRR
FWOO
I WILL NOT!
SKRAA
YOU JUST WON'T QUIT, WILL YOU?
TMP
FEH! I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW YOU THE TRUE EXTENT OF MY POWER !!

SHAAAA ZAAAA
SHIT SPSHIT
C-COLD... I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THOSE CL-CLOUDS ARE LOOKING...
...ST-STORM'S COMING IN... OH, PLEASE, DON'T COME...
SHAAA
WH-WHAT'S TAKING FIGURE SO LONG..?
H-HE'D BETTER NOT BE H-HAVING FUN WITH THAT GIRL...
SPLORK
WHY WON'T YOU ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'VE LOST.
HEH, HEH, HEH. DON'T YOU SEE? YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME...
ZUHN

HEH! I WON'T LOSE
SPAK
TRAK
FRAAA
AAK
HEH, HEH, HEH YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH...
DO I HAVE TO KILL YOU FOR YOU TO UNDER-STAND!?
SLAP
TAP
HE'S UNBELIEVABLE
PHEW
BOOM

UHAARGH!
I'M NOT BEATEN YET!
SHOOP
SH-SHE'S LONG GONE!
TH-THAT GIRL HAS NO BLOOD OR TEARS... SHE'S LEFT US OUT H-HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE... WITH ONLY A PITTANCE OF FOOD AND WATER...
HOW DARE YOU RUN OUT ON OUR FIGHT, ALITA!?
VRWOOOOOO

FIGURE FOUR...
...WHAT A NUT...
SEEMS LIKE YOU HAD FUN, A1.
.....
NOW LEAVE THAT SECTOR, IMMEDIATELY!
DOPPLER RADAR HAS PICKED UP DANGEROUS WEATHER FORMATIONS IN YOUR AREA.
THE HEAT FROM THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND THE COOL WESTERLY WINDS HAVE COLLIDED. YOU'RE IN FOR ONE HELL OF A STORM.
THE HIGH PRESSURE AND THE RAINS HAVE COLLIDED--
---CREATING A GIANT TORNADO!
RADIOACTIVE THUNDERSHOWERS?
NO...

SHWOOOOO

N-NN-AA AH!
F-FIGURE!
THIS JUST ISN'T OUR DAY! BANDITS, MELTDOWNS, AND NOW A TORNADO!?
SHWOOM
GAAAH! WE'RE DONE FOR!

SKREESH
!?
GET IN!

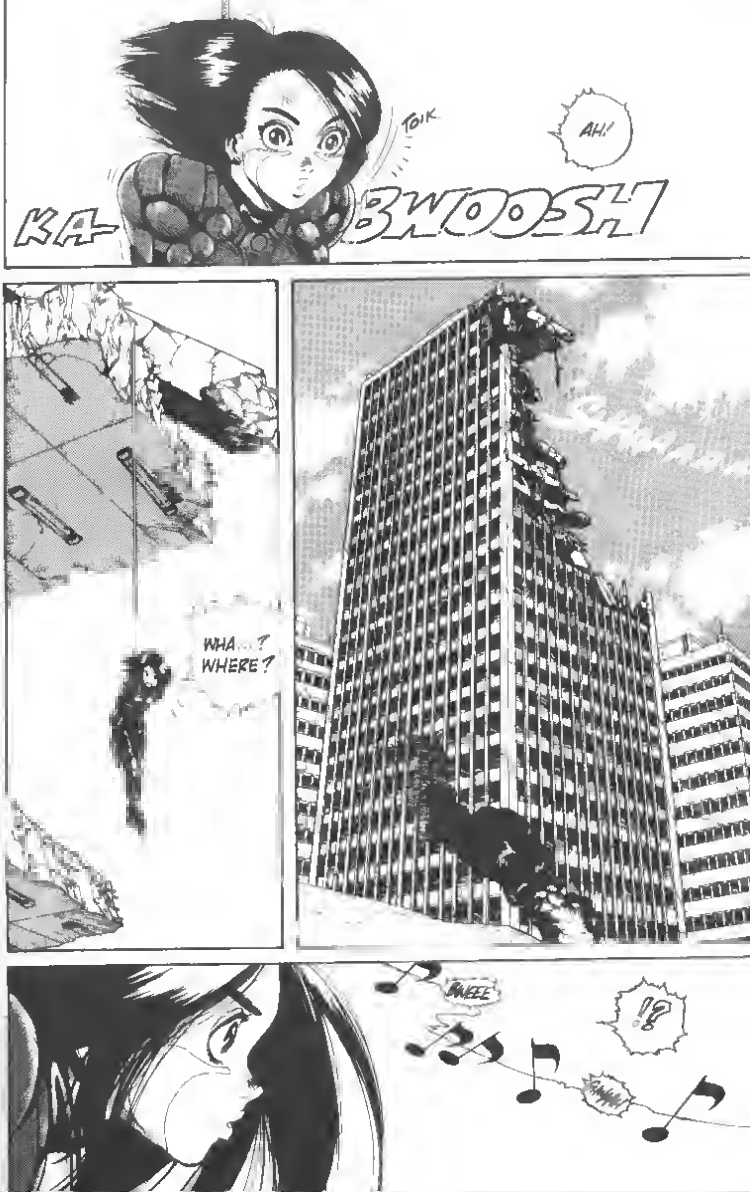
HURRY UP AND CLIMB ON!
NO THANKS!
I DON'T NEED YOUR-
F-FIGURE!
BETTER SAVE THAT LINE FOR ANOTHER DAY...
JUST COULDN'T STAY AWAY, HUH?!
NO TIME FOR PRIDE, YOU IDIOT! GET IN!

FWOOM
HANG ON TIGHT!
SHWOOM

YOU FOOL! HOW DARE YOU IGNORE MY ORDERS...!?
PUTTING YOURSELF IN DANGER TO RESCUE A COUPLE OF LOWLY SURFACE DWELLERS...!
CHIEF BIGOTT, TIPHAREANS AREN'T THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
I'VE KEPT QUIET UNTIL NOW-- BUT NO MORE!
HOW DO YOU THINK ALL OF YOU IN TIPHARES EVEN SURVIVE ABOVE THE CLOUDS!?
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH, A1!
WHO IS IT THAT MAKES YOUR FOOD, SEWS YOUR CLOTHES, DISPOSES OF YOUR WASTE, AND FIGHTS YOUR BLOODY BATTLES!?
IT'S THOSE OF US ON THE SURFACE!
YOU FLOAT ON OUR BACKS-- AND I WON'T TAKE YOUR ORDERS!

TOOMP
KATOOMP
L-LOOK OUT FOR THAT BOULDER !?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? SWERVE!
HUH !?
KRANG
WAAAAH!
SHOOO
A!
ZAAAAA
RESPOND, A!
BAM
ARGH!
HOW COULD THIS...

SKRE


KA-
TOIK
AH!
BWOOSH
WHA...?
WHERE?
WWEEE
!?
GWWW

HEH, HEH, HEH LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE AWAKE, ALITA
MY HARMONICA!
TALK ABOUT CLOSE CALLS! WHEN I CAME TO, THE JEEP WAS BARELY HANGIN' ONTO THE SIDE OF THIS BUILDING...
...IF I HADN'T GOTTEN EVERYONE OFF SO QUICKLY, WE'D ALL BE DEAD.
"IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH ME... YOU'LL GO TO AN EARLY GRAVE."
BUT SEE? WE'RE STILL ALIVE, AREN'T WE...?
GUAHAHA
STOP KIDDING AROUND AND PULL ME UP!
L-LET'S PULL HER UP, FIGURE...
WHAT'RE YOU SCARED OF!?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE, MISS "MAYBE-I'LL-SAVE-YOU-NO-I-THINK-I'LL-LEAVE-YOU-BEHIND"!
BUT I'VE HAD IT WITH BEING TREATED LIKE SOME TOY!

SURE, YOU CAN PROB'LY BREAK THOSE WIRES EASILY ENOUGH...
BUT EVEN WITH YOUR CYBER BODY, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY SURVIVE A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST CHILL OUT AWHILE?!
ERR...
THAT UNGRATEFUL...! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT I PUT ON THE LINE TO RESCUE HIM.
CONTROL! DO YOU COPY, CONTROL?
DAMN! I CAN'T RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT..!
HEY! IS THAT BANDIT-LEADER, KNUCKLEHEAD, SAFE?!
COME T'THINK OF IT...
D-DIDN'T SEE IT IN THE J-JEEP.
LOOKS LIKE WE DROPPED THE BRAIN BUCKET SOMEPLACE! GIVE UP ON IT!

PLIP
PLORP
HEE, HEE! YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND WATER IN PLACES LIKE THIS.
WELL, WELL! LEAVE IT TO A VET...
POOSH
S-SINCE IT'S A SPRING, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT RADIATION.
THIS PLACE IS HUGE! WE MUST BE ABLE TO FIND FOOD SOMEWHERE!
F-FOSSILIZED CANS, MAYBE.
AW, C'MON YA GOTTA HAVE A MORE POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON LIFE
O-OKAY...

I'M STARVIN'... THERE HAST BE A RATTLESNAKE OR SOMETHIN' AROUND...
JUST DON'T LOOK AT ME!
SCREECH
HEY! THAT MIGHT BE TASTY!
WAH!
F-FIGURE!
SKWASH
!
HEY! CHECK IT OUT, YOLG!
LIKE I SAID-- THERE'S A TON OF FOOD HERE!
WHEEK
TALK ABOUT ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT!
TH-THESE CANS-- BRAND NEW...?
I G-GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

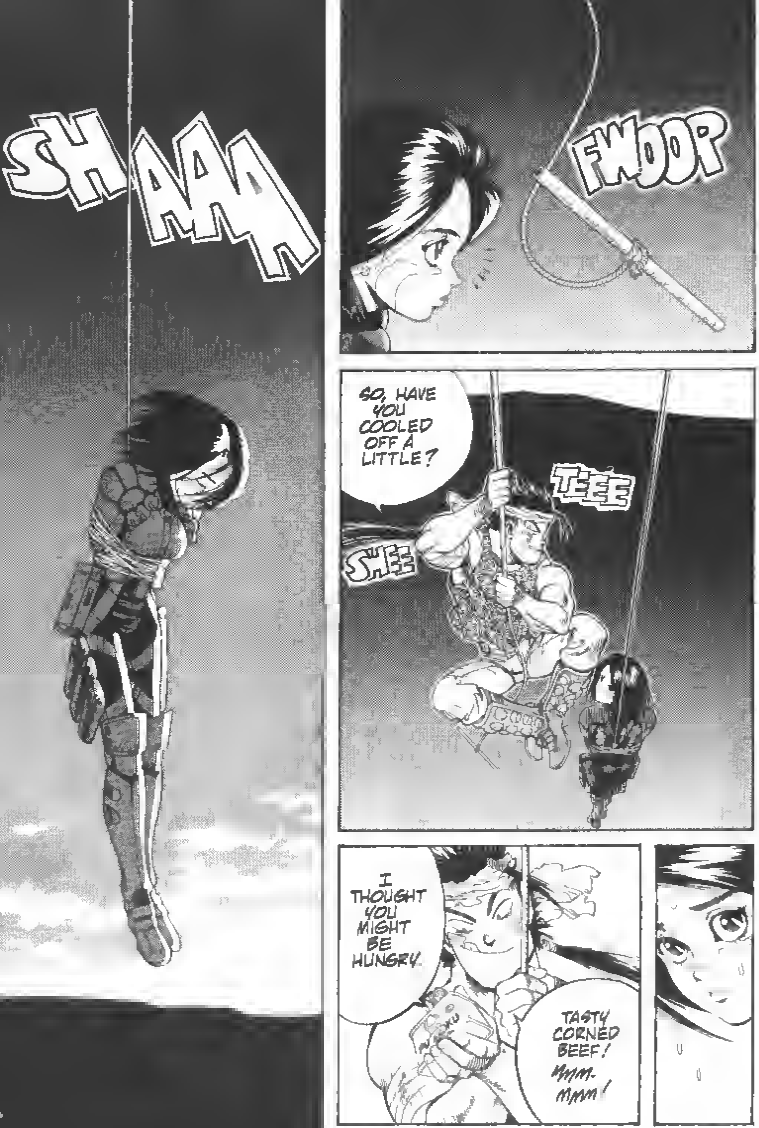

SHAAAA
FWOOP
SO, HAVE YOU COOLED OFF A LITTLE?
TEEE
SHEE
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HUNGRY.
TASTY CORNED BEEF! MMM. MMM!

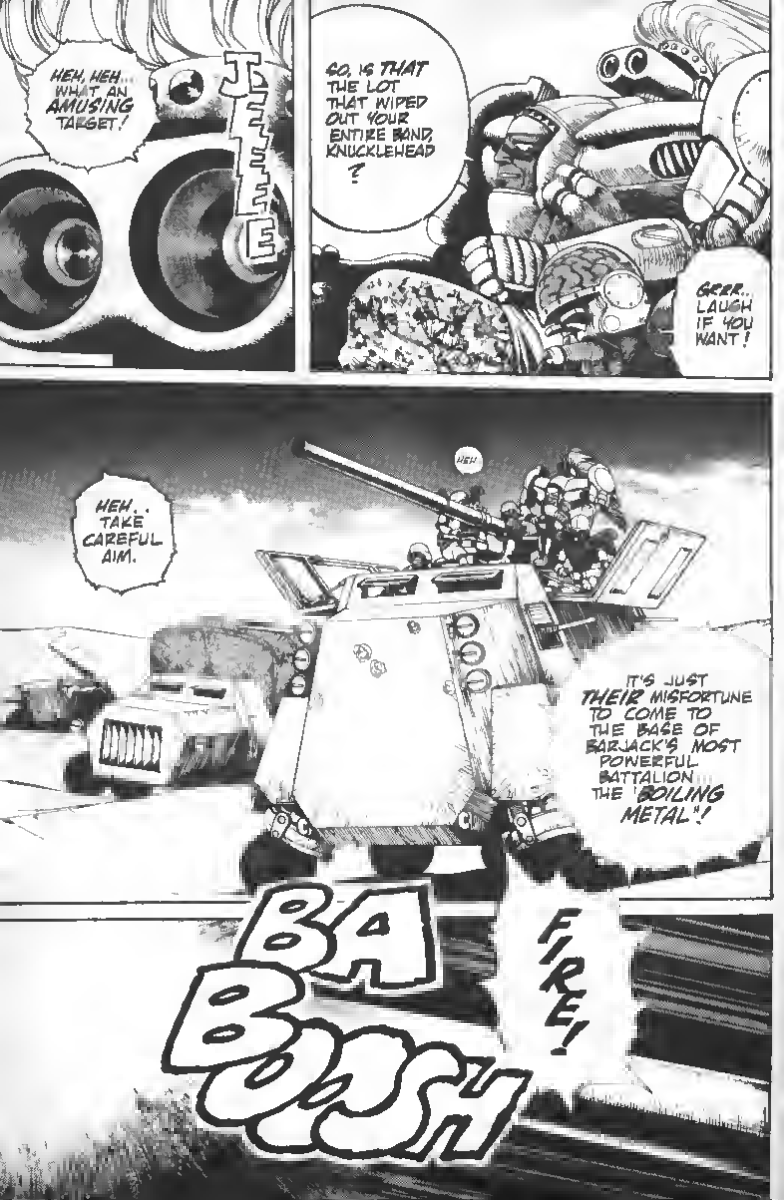
FIGURE...
...I-I'M SORRY
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY
LOOK, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH
I'M AN AGENT OF TIPHARES— THE FIRST OF THE "TUNED"... ON A TOP SECRET MISSION.
ARE YOU FROM UP THERE?
I CAN'T GO AGAINST THE ORDERS FROM TIPHARES...
NO.

IN A BOOK I READ A LONG TIME AGO, IT SAID, "IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A SLAVE YOU CAN EITHER BUY ONE OR SAVE THE LIFE OF ONE"
AND TIPHARES SAVED MY LIFE.
SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I WAS EVEN BORN...
WHERE WERE YOU BORN?
.....WELL...
PROBABLY MARS... BUT I'M NOT SURE.
HMM...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HEH, HEH, HEH. MY HOME IS A REAL NICE PLACE...
IT'S CALLED ALHAMBRA IT'S A FISHING VILLAGE WHERE THE SEA HAS SWELLED UP, HALFWAY COVERING THE RUINS.

EVERY FEW YEARS, A TWENTY-METER LONG SEA SERPENT WANDERS INTO OUR BAY, COMING AFTER THE SEALS
THE WHOLE VILLAGE WORKS TOGETHER WITH HARPOONS, AND THERE'S A CONTEST TO SEE WHO SPEARS IT FIRST. IT'S QUITE A SIGHT!
THE OCEAN.. I'D LOVE TO SEE IT SOME-TIME
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE WALKED THE DRY PLAINS ALL MY LIFE
BEST YOU DON'T SEE IT. YOU'LL JUST RUST.
SAG
..INSENSITIVE JERK...
HERE! SAY, "AAAH"!
AAAHH

CHOMP
CHUFF
.....
Mmm...
I
SWAK
OWW!
YOU CREEP!
WHOA, I'M GONNA FALL!
TWOK
SHEEEE
GRK!

U-UH, YES!?
YOU!
IF YOU DON'T PULL ME UP RIGHT NOW, I'M GOING TO KILL THIS IDIOT, FIGURE, RIGHT HERE!
EVEN IF I WANTED TO
I'M NOT MUCH USE WITH MY BROKEN ARM.
DAMN... I FORGOT...
B-BUT WHAT?
DO SOMETHING!


HEH, HEH... WHAT AN AMUSING TARGET!
JEEEE
SO, IS THAT THE LOT THAT WIPED OUT YOUR ENTIRE BAND, KNUCKLEHEAD?
GRRR.. LAUGH IF YOU WANT!
HEH..
HEH.. TAKE CAREFUL AIM.
IT'S JUST THEIR MISFORTUNE TO COME TO THE BASE OF BARJACK'S MOST POWERFUL BATTALION THE "BOILING METAL"!
BA BOOSH
FIRE!

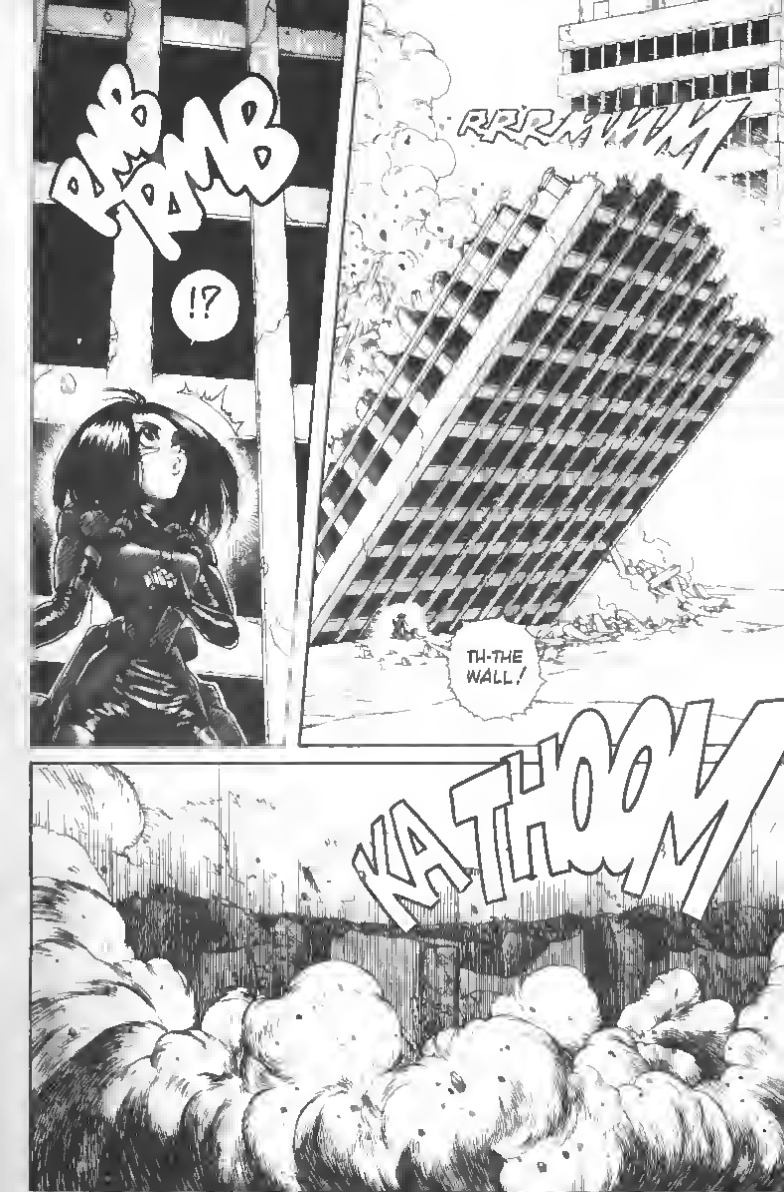
HELL BEAST

Journey 4: Dog Eat Dog

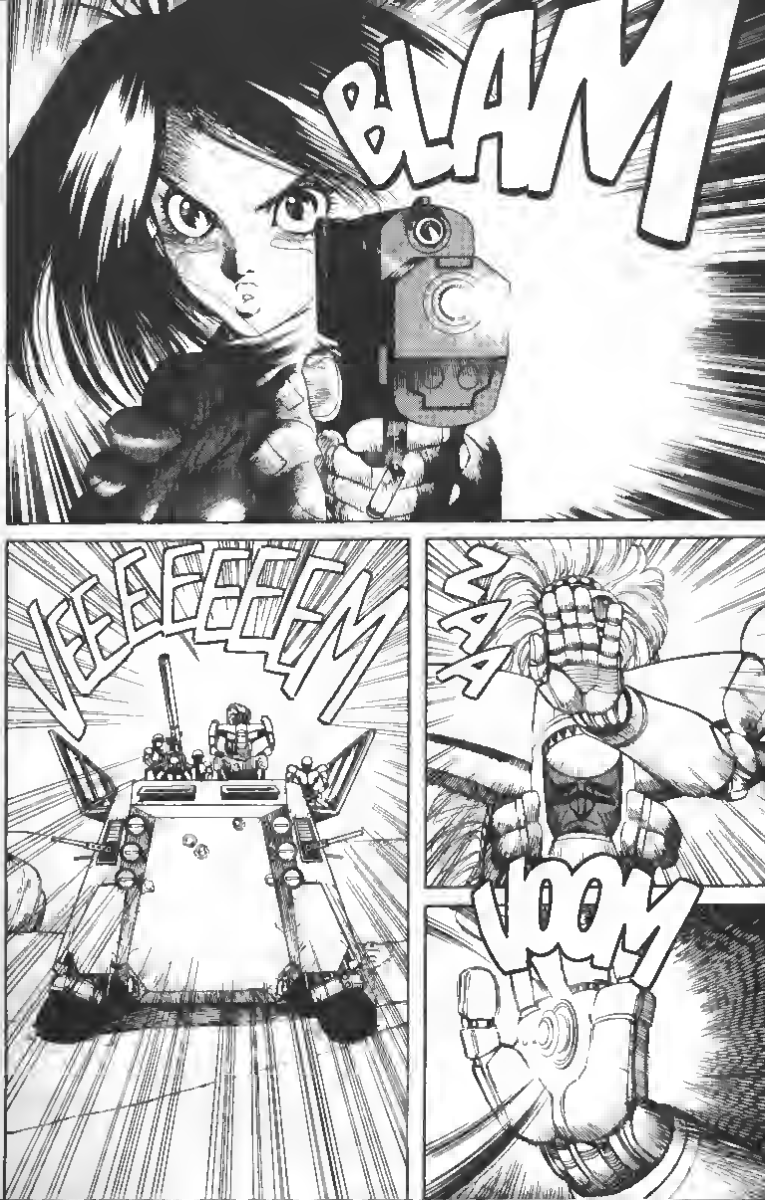
KABOOM
YAH!

YOU MISSED, IDIOT!
FIRE AT WILL!
BOOO

TUMP
SO TROUBLESOME..
SKCE
SKUP
STNG
WHIP
THIP
MONOFILAMENT WIRE!
TOING
KR-EK
ZEEEEEEEEE
ZEEE
EEEEEEE!
ZEEE ZEEE
BOOM!
U-UNHH!... W-WE MADE IT?
SING
KEAHHHO

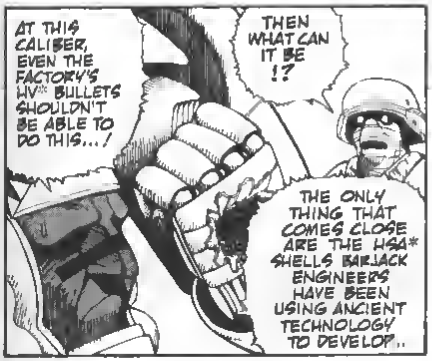

RMB RMB
!?
RRRMMM
TH-THE WALL!
KA-THOOM

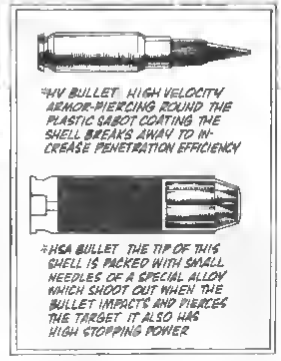
WE DID IT, COLONEL! THEY'VE BEEN FLATTENED!
HMM
!
SSSA AAA
TOOF
WHAT LUCK! AN OPEN WINDOW LANDED ON US
Koff *Koff*
KAKREK


BLAM
VEEEEEEEM
ZAA
VOOM

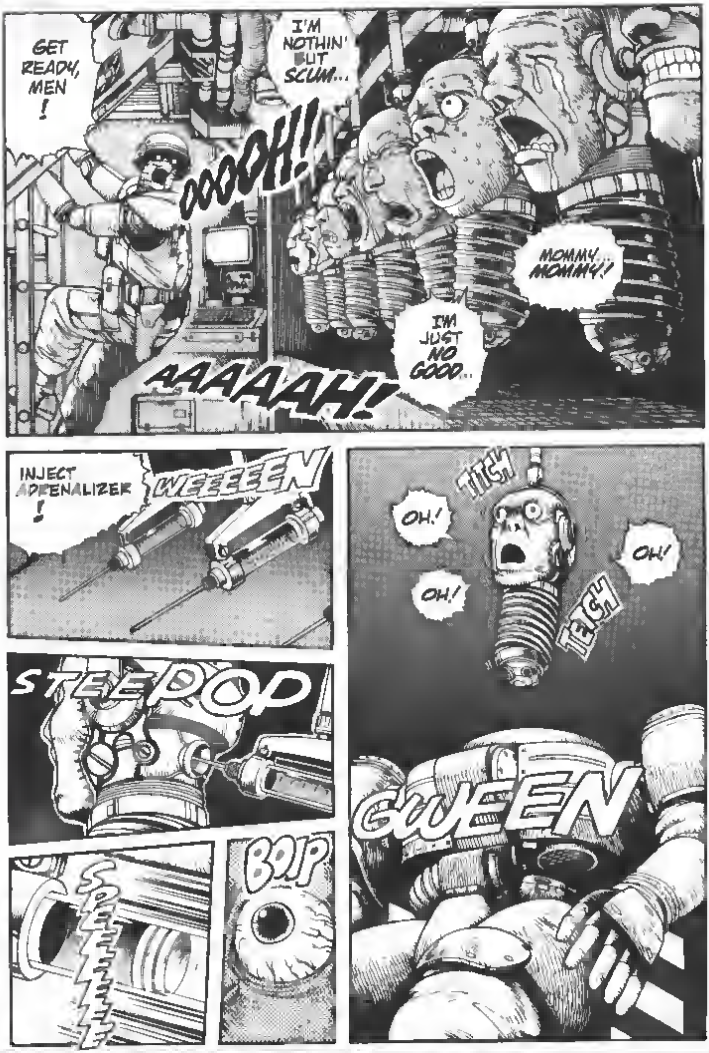
SPLAK
!?
WHAT !?
HER BULLET WAS ABLE TO PIERCE MY TITANIUM-COATED HAND AT THIS RANGE...
...AND SHE LAUNCHED A COUNTERATTACK INSTANTLY! SHE'S NOT A RAIL MERCENARY!
Tch!
BUGGABUGGA
BOOOH
BOOOM
BOOOH
BOOOH

BOOM
KA-BLAM!
HAHAHA!


AT THIS CALIBER, EVEN THE FACTORY'S HV* BULLETS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS...!
THEN WHAT CAN IT BE!?
THE ONLY THING THAT COMES CLOSE ARE THE HSA* SHELLS BARJACK ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN USING ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP...

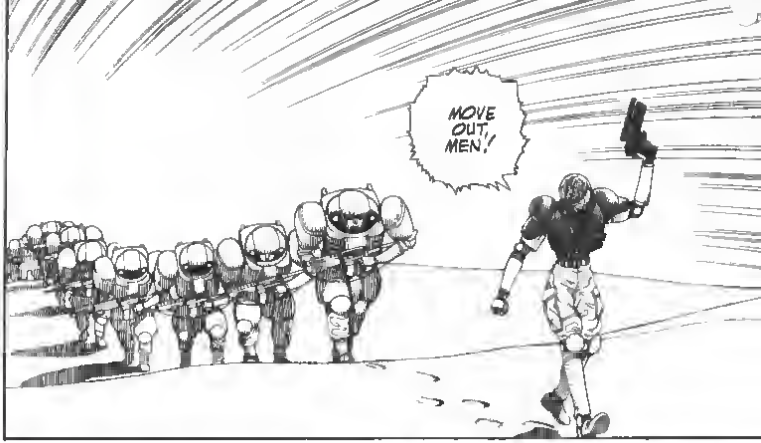

*HV BULLET: HIGH VELOCITY ARMOR-PIERCING ROUND THE PLASTIC SABOT COATING THE SHELL BREAKS AWAY TO INCREASE PENETRATION EFFICIENCY
*HSA BULLET: THE TIP OF THIS SHELL IS PACKED WITH SMALL NEEDLES OF A SPECIAL ALLOY WHICH SHOOT OUT WHEN THE BULLET IMPACTS AND PIERCES THE TARGET. IT ALSO HAS HIGH STOPPING POWER

WE MUST TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION.. RUMOR SAYS AN AGENT OF TIPHARES NICKNAMED THE "ANGEL OF DEATH" HAS BEEN CHECKING UP ON US...
...IF ONE OF THEM IS THE AGENT, WE MUST STOP THEM HERE! UNDERSTOOD, SERGEANT?
YESSIR!

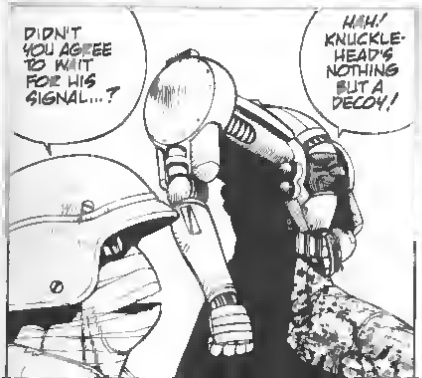

GET READY, MEN!
I'M NOTHIN' BUT SCUM...
OOOOH!!
MOMMY, MOMMY!!
I'M JUST NO GOOD...
AAAAAH!
INJECT ADRENALIZER!
WEEEEEN
STEEPOP
BOP
TICK
OH!
OH!
OH!
TOCK
GWEEN

SSWEE
SSWEE
SSWEE
SMEAR
CRACK
YOU ARE THE ULTIMATE SOLDIERS IN THE UNIVERSE!
NOTHING CAN STOP YOU!
NOW GO, MY DOGS OF WAR!
AAAAH! FEELS LIKE I'M ON FIRE!

BOOM
COLONEL... I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK!
HM?
BOOM
I STILL WANT TO TAKE MY REVENGE ON THEM-- FOR THE MEN I LOST
LET ME BE THE ONE TO FINISH THEM OFF!
.....
VERY WELL I FIND YOUR DEVOTION TO YOUR POSITION AS SQUAD COMMANDER ADMIRABLE
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE PLATOON OF MEN. SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO, KNUCKLEHEAD!
I AM IN YOUR DEBT!

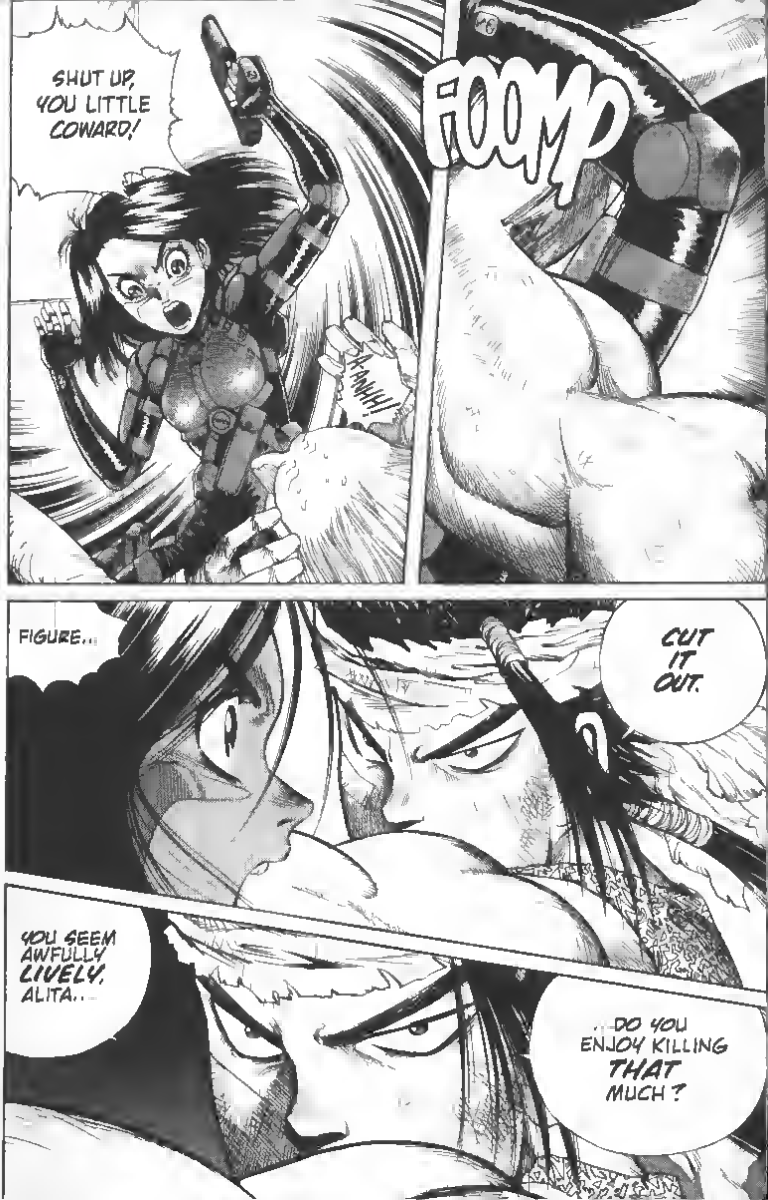

MOVE OUT, MEN.!

DEPLOY MORE TROOPS TO FLANK THE CITY...
SIR ?


DIDN'T YOU AGREE TO WAIT FOR HIS SIGNAL...?
HAH! KNUCKLE-HEAD'S NOTHING BUT A DECOY!

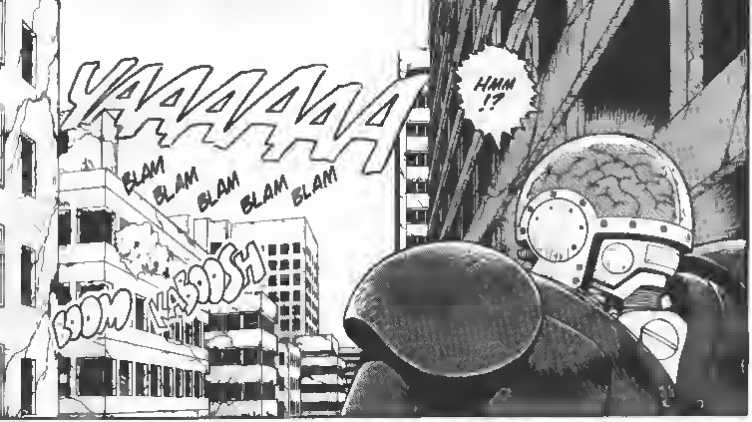
IF WE ARE UP AGAINST AN AGENT OF TIPHARES, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WIN.
THE LESS THE WORTH OF A MAN, THE GREATER HIS PRIDE.

THE SHELLING HAS STOPPED.
YOU THINK THEY'RE BARJACK GUYS AS WELL?
HF!
HF!
AAAAH! UNGH!
GOT ME...MY COMM-LINK TO TIPHARES ISN'T WORKING, SO I'M NOT RECEIVING ANY NEW DATA. MY ABILITIES AS A TUNED ARE HALVED.
THE ONLY THING THAT'S CERTAIN...
...IS THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A LIFE-OR-DEATH BATTLE SOON
HEH..! NOW WE'LL SEE SOME ACTION!
N-NO../ I-I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ANYMORE / I-I CAN'T DO IT!
I-I WANT TO GO HOME!
GRRR
FLIP
FLOP

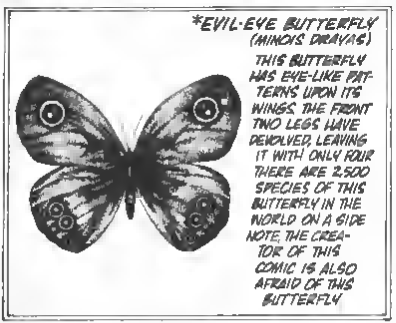

SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE COWARD!
SKRNNH!
FOOMP
FIGURE...
CUT IT OUT.
YOU SEEM AWFULLY LIVELY, ALITA...
...DO YOU ENJOY KILLING THAT MUCH?

YES! I LOVE BEING IN BATTLE! I LOVE THE MOMENT WHEN MY BODY STOPS BEING A MACHINE AND BECOMES A PART OF ME!
MY BLOOD BOILS AND MY MIND GOES ALL WHITE! IT'S AN INCREDIBLE HIGH! THERE'S NO TIME TO THINK ONLY ACTION!
WELL. I LIKE FIGHTING BETTER THAN GETTING THREE MEALS A DAY, SURE. BUT I HATE WARS!
AND THAT INCLUDES GIRLS THAT FIGHT IN THEM!
.....

...YOU'S GOT A WIFE AND KID WAITIN' FOR HIM, SO WHY DON'T YOU LAY OFF HIM!
UNLIKE YOU, HE'S GOT SOMETHIN' TO LOSE!
TOOM
HMPH!
HHMPH! THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM..
I WAS PROBABLY A GUN OR SOMETHING IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE..


YAAAAAAA
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BOOM
KABOOSH
HMM !?

WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT !?
UFF.. HFF..
TIKKA TEK
KRIK
KREK
I-I CAN'T HANDLE THOSE *EVIL-EYE BUTTERFLIES.. !


*EVIL-EYE BUTTERFLY (MINOIS DRAYAS)
THIS BUTTERFLY HAS EYE-LIKE PATTERNS UPON ITS WINGS. THE FRONT TWO LEGS HAVE DEVOLVED, LEAVING IT WITH ONLY FOUR. THERE ARE 2,500 SPECIES OF THIS BUTTERFLY IN THE WORLD. ON A SIDE NOTE, THE CREATOR OF THIS COMIC IS ALSO AFRAID OF THIS BUTTERFLY.

OH, NO! I GAVE OUR POSITION AWAY--WE HAVE TO HIDE!
DAMN! I'VE USED UP ALL MY BULLETS. WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
IT'S TOO LATE..

HA! THE FOOLS! TO GIVE AWAY THEIR POSITION LIKE THAT...
THEY MUST WANT TO DIE BY MY HAND! JUST WAIT!
BMP
BMP
COMMANDER, YOU SHOULD STAY UNDER COVER.
I WON'T HIDE FROM THEM.
DAMN AMATEUR BRAVADO.
LET'S DITCH HIM!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
TOOM TOOM
IGNORE HIM.
BOOP
BWA

BOOM
TUK TUK
BIP
SPLASH
BEEP

SPOOM
HRGH!
BUP
BIP
YAH!
KABWAM
FOOM

RNAK
SPLORCH
-TING
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA DA DA
YAAARGH!
TOING
WUP
!
SKRSHT
SLOP

HSSSSSSS
STILL... NEED MORE!
GHAH!
MORE! UNTIL IT'S ALL... WHITE!

KRANG
BOM BOM BOM BOM BOM!
POOM POOM!
HFF
UFF
W-WHAT'S THE MATTER, FIGURE? L-LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
I LOVE FREEDOM-- AND DURING MY TRAVELS I'VE THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT WHAT THAT MEANS...
.. WONDERING JUST HOW FAR MY CONCEPT OF FREEDOM WOULD TAKE ME.
AND UP TILL NOW, I THOUGHT BEING ALONE WAS THE PATH TO TRUE FREEDOM...
BUT SEEING ALITA... WHO'S REALLY ALONE... HAS MADE ME REALIZE THAT THAT WASN'T FREEDOM.

FREEDOM IS TAKING CONTROL OF THE RUDDER OF YOUR LIFE.
SO I'M GOING BACK!
D-DON'T BE FOOLISH! N-NO POINT IN TR-TRYING TO BE A HERO!
T-THOSE GUYS ARE ALL M-MONSTERS FIGHTING EACH OTHER. I-IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DOO WITH US.
YOU FIND SOMEPLACE TO HIDE UNTIL IT'S ALL OVER.
BOM BOM BOM
H-HEY, FIGURE. WAIT!
D-DON'T LEAVE ME OUT HERE LIKE THIS!
H-HUH ?
FOOM
SKIK

WAAA ARGH!
SPLARP
KAKESH
WUMP
WAH !?

FESH
FWAK
FAFAFAK
TOOSH
SPOOSH
HAH !
CHIK

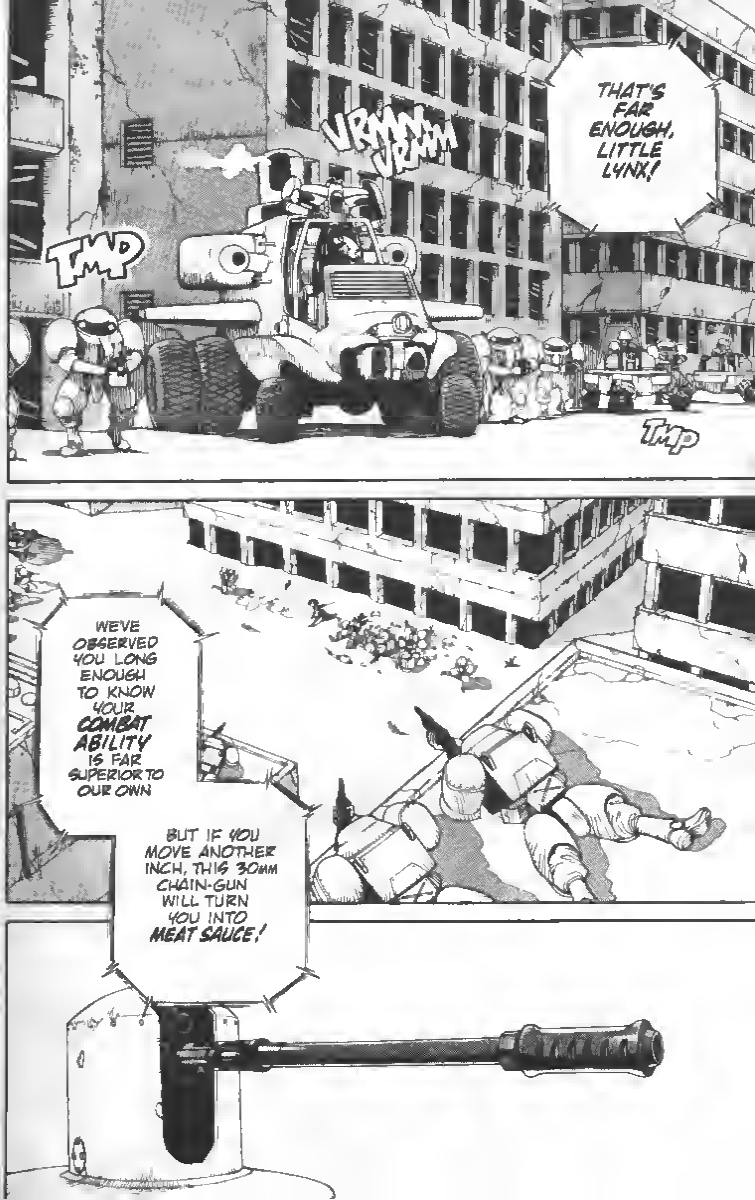
FWANG
GYAAAH!
KABOOM
CHAK
SPASH
TASH

HYAAH!!
SPLOK
SBO
YAH!
SKIK
GLEH!
HAAA! THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
!
BMP

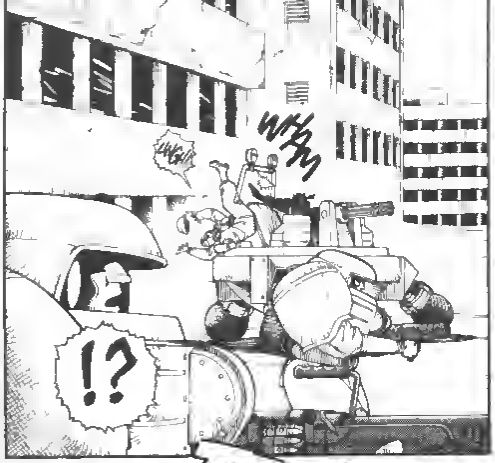
YOU'RE DEAD, GIRL!
CHOP
KLANG
CHING
WHIPP
SPWAM
HEH...

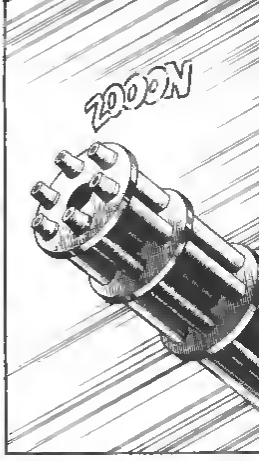
WH-WHAT...?!
SKOK
MY FINGER... A KNIFE!?
STSH
FWA NG
SKANG

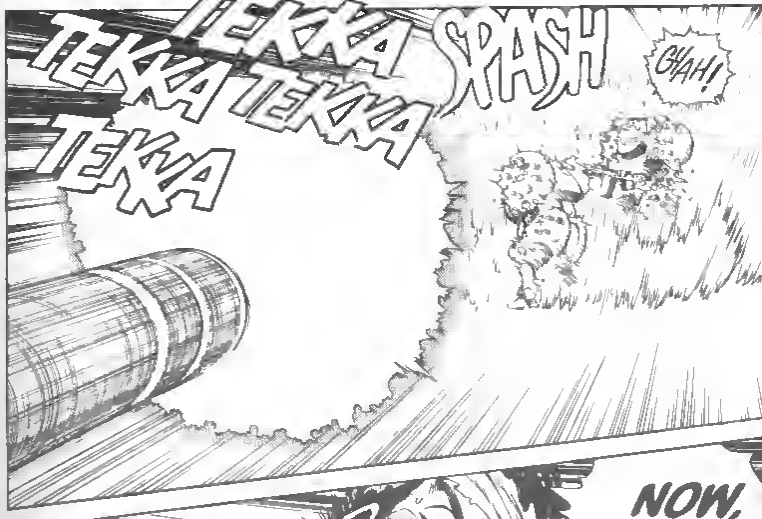
AAAARGH!
HAHAA!
KREK
CHK
!
WHAM
BLAM
VOOSH


VRMMM VRMMM
TMP
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, LITTLE LYNX!
TMP
WE'VE OBSERVED YOU LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW YOUR COMBAT ABILITY IS FAR SUPERIOR TO OUR OWN
BUT IF YOU MOVE ANOTHER INCH, THIS 30mm CHAIN-GUN WILL TURN YOU INTO MEAT SAUCE!

BUT, COLONEL--
WHY...!?
I DIDN'T CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT LUCKY, KNUCKLE
GYAHAHA
WOHOHO
HAHAHAHA EEEHIHIHI!
GWAHAHAHA!
AIN'T YOU LUCKY, KNUCKLE-HEAD!
ERRGH! YOU USED ME--AS BAIT!
SHSSSSS
SHSSSSS
SHSSSSS
I-I-I WANT TO SH-SHOOT. S-SIR!
SLURP
I-I CAN'T HOLD BACK...!
RELAX! HER BRAIN MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION WHICH COULD PROVE USEFUL


!?


ZOOON


TEKKA
TEKKA TEKKA
TEKKA
SPASH
GYAH!

NOW, ALITA!

POOM
POOM
POOM
BAM
BAM
FSSH
I'VE LOST SIGHT OF THE TARGET!
LAY DOWN SOME COVER FIRE AND RETREAT!
HIA AAH!
TEKKA-TEKKA-TEKKA!

LIKE YOU SAID, I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO TIPHARES, THE FACTORY, OR BARJACK!
BUT I WON'T LET YOU HARM ALITA!
TEKKA TEKKA
HA HA HA HA!
ARACHNO-
--ACTIVATE!
RETREAT! RETREAT!
TEKKA TEKKA
BLAM BLAM
VRRRMMM
HOTT TIT TIT
PING
BADOOM

BLOOF
WAH!
MORE ENEMIES--BEHIND US!?
BLAM BLAM
WHEN DID THEY LAY DOWN BOOBY TRAPS!?
ARACHNO
ONE OF THE SPECIAL DEVICES USED BY THE TUNED, A TIPHAREAN INSECTOID BOMB, THE ARACHNO CAN BE USED AS A BOOBY TRAP VIA INTERNAL PROGRAMMING OR REMOTE COMMANDS, OR FOR OTHER TACTICAL USES.
(AS STORED IN PACK)
MISSILE BEES!
THWIP
FIRE!
WOOF
BLLLL
BZZZZZZ...
BLAM BLAM BLAM
PING

MISSILE BEE ※

ANOTHER OF THE SPECIAL DEVICES ISSUED TO THE TUNED. A BEE-SHAPED CYBORG MISSILE CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT TARGET SELECTION AS WELL AS PRECISE TARGETING

HAAAAA!
N-NO!
W-WAIT A SECOND, ALITA!
FWAP
SKITCH

TH-THIS MAN...
...HIS MY CH-CHILDHOOD FRIEND!
HEH!
VOLG...?
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
UCK!

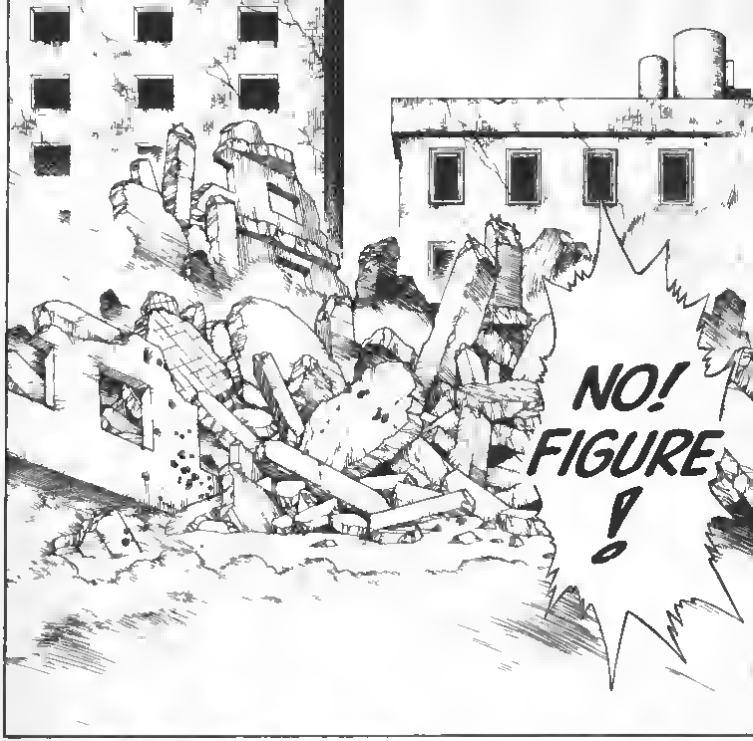
HA, HA. HA... I GUESS FRIENDS ARE REAL IMPORTANT, EH, YOLG ?
EH.. EHEH EH..
TUP TUP
FOOMP
UNGH
KACHIK

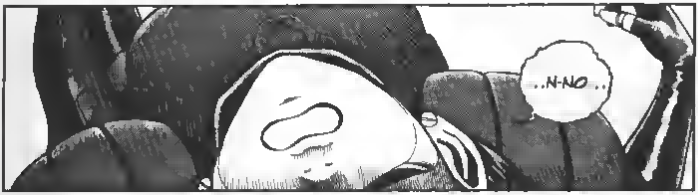
Y-YOLG.. WHAT ARE YOU...?
I-I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.. I-I JUST W-WANTED TO SIDE WITH THE B-BIG GUYS...
EH HEH
Y-YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING I'M A C-COWARD...
...B-BUT A-ALITA AND F-FIGURE... YOU BOTH H-HAVE STRENGTH AND C-COURAGE...
EHEHEH
B-BUT WHAT AB-BOUT A W-WEAKLING LIKE ME? WH-WHAT AM I S-SUPPOSED TO DO?
F-FREEDOM IS SOMETHING ONLY THE ST-STRONG CAN HAVE!
I-I'D RATHER HAVE A D-DOG COLLAR T-THAN F-FREEDOM!

YOLG!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

BAWHAM

FIGURE!


NO! FIGURE!


..N-NO..

CHITTA
CHITTA
AAH...
AAAAH..
CHITTA

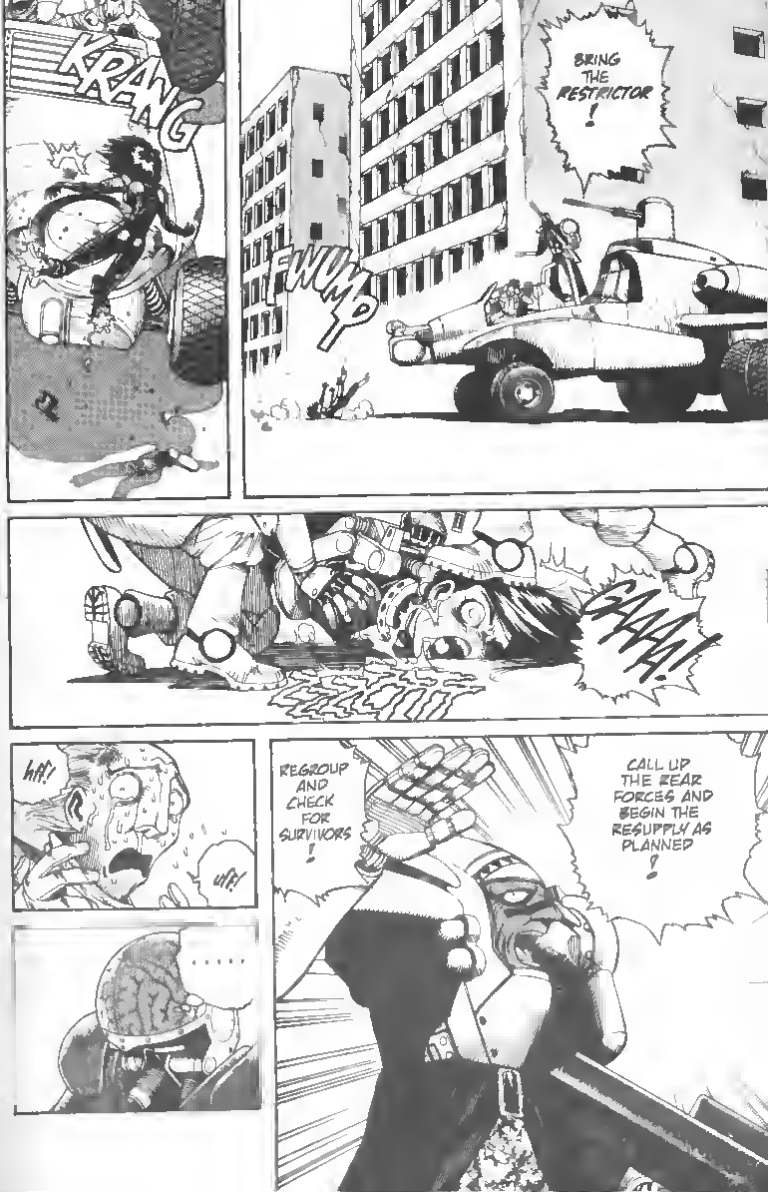
GAH!
YOLG.
!

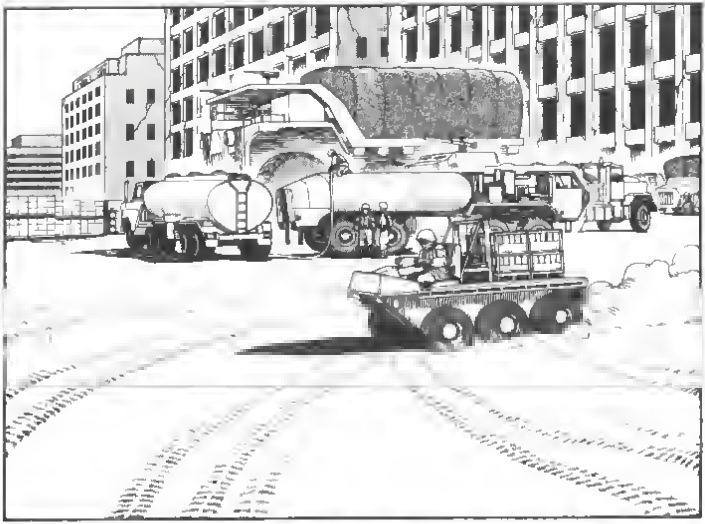
THE PLAINS OF BETRAYAL

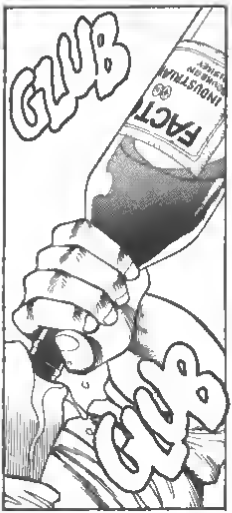
Journey 5: Cowardice

AAHHH!
TMP TMTMP
STAND BACK..
TH-THAT GUN! IT'S
FSSH
HOW DARE YOU..? I-
-I CARED ABOUT HIM!
WOOSH
FMP

BSHOOO
SPORK


KRANG
BRING THE RESTRICTOR!
FWUMP
GAAAA!
HA?
UH!
.....
REGROUP AND CHECK FOR SURVIVORS!
CALL UP THE REAR FORCES AND BEGIN THE RESUPPLY AS PLANNED!




GLUB
FACT
INDUSTRIAL
GLUB

AAHHH!

"FREEDOM IS TAKING CONTROL OF THE RUDDER OF YOUR LIFE.."
"..YOLG'S GOT A WIFE AND KID WAITIN' FOR HIM, SO WHY DON'T YOU LAY OFF.."
I-I'M SORRY, FIGURE
FUP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, YOLG..?
TMP
GLUB
C-COLONEL BOZZLE..!

I-I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU HERE, OF ALL P-PEOPLE! YOU WERE SO PR-PROUD TO BELONG TO THE "GREEN BERET"* TRIBE AND TO LEAD A MERCENARY SQUAD.
I-I HEARD YOU WERE KILLED TWO YEARS AGO, FIGHTING THE B-BARJACK...
HEH! THINKING THE HUNTER HAS BECOME THE HUNTED?
UNTIL I WENT UP AGAINST THE BARJACK, I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A NEW GROUP OF BRIGANDS... BUT AFTER MY DEFEAT, I REALIZED I WAS MISTAKEN
I SAW HIM-- THE GREAT LEADER, DEN-- AND I LEARNED OF HIS AMBITION!
TO LAY WASTE TO THE FACTORY! TO DROP TIPHARES!
TO BREAK FREE OF TIPHARES' CONTROL AND MAKE OUR OWN COUNTRY, HERE, ON THE SURFACE!

*GREEN BERET: ONCE THE U.S. ARMY'S SPECIAL FORCES, NOW A TRIBE OF HIGHLY SKILLED WARRIORS

D-DROP THE SKY...?! TH-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...!
IT DOES SOUND FARFETCHED. BUT I ADMIRE HIS CONVICTION--
AND IF MY INSIGNIFICANT LIFE CAN AID IN THAT VISION, I WOULD DIE WILLINGLY!
IT IS DESTINY THAT WE HAVE MET AGAIN, YOLG! LET'S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, SIDE BY SIDE...
E-EHEH-EH... I-I HAVE TO--
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO ATTACK FACTORY FARM 22!
!!
F-FARM 22 TH-THAT'S WHERE M-MY WIFE AND KID ARE...
W-WAIT A MINUTE, BOZZLE!
HMM... YOUR LEG IS INJURED? GO SEE THE MEDIC AND HAVE HIM REPAIR IT.
P-PLEASE LISTEN.
FARM

HEY, KNUCKLEHEAD! DID YOU OIL THOSE GUNS!?
Y-YEGGIR. I DID
THEN GET THEM LOADED, DIMWIT! WE'RE MOVING OUT!
VROOM
VRRRMMMM
VRRR

ICTORY
INDUSTRIAL
AMP
THAMP
KATA
KATA
THUMP
KAPOW
PISH
STAND

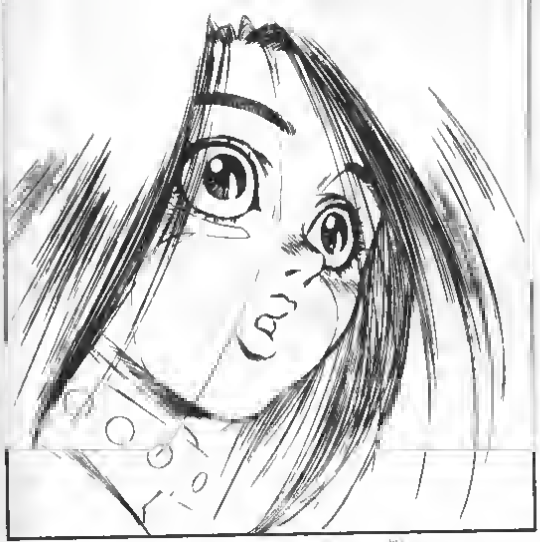
KRESH
KRESH

GULP
GULP
GULP
GLAAAA
AAAAH!
I FEEL
ALIVE
AGAIN--!
AND EVEN
THEM
BULLETS KEEP
AVOIDIN' ME!

KACHAK

SHE'S OUT COLD!
HEH.. VOLG WAS RIGHT! THE EVIL-EYE BUTTERFLY IS DOING THE TRICK!
WAKE UP!
UGH!..
WAKE UP, "ANGEL OF DEATH"...
YOU'LL BE THOROUGHLY INTERROGATED ONCE WE JOIN THE MAIN FORCES...
...BUT THERE ARE A FEW QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK YOU RIGHT NOW.
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS...
WHAT?
IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE I LOST CONTACT WITH TIPHARES...
THAT MEANS... AS ONE OF THE TUNED... I'VE BEEN CAST AWAY BY TIPHARES..

OH..?
heh
TH-THERE'S NO HOPE... FIGURE IS DEAD...AND MY MIND WILL PROBABLY BE RAPED OF ITS INFORMATION--AND THEN I'LL BE KILLED!
BUT..IF I'M BEING TAKEN TO BARJACK'S MAIN CAMP..THEN THAT COULD MEAN...
MY PRIMARY MISSION AS A TUNED... WAS TO CAPTURE THE SCIENTIST DESTY NOVA, WHO DEFECTED FROM TIPHARES..
PROFESSOR NOVA? THAT WEIRDO...?
HE'S OUR LEADER DEN'S GOOD FRIEND I SEE...
AND THE ONLY REASON I JOINED THE TUNED IS... IS TO FIND DAISUKE IDO, WHO NOVA TOOK AWAY.!
IDO..?
THE TIPHAREAN DOCTOR-PROFESSOR NOVA'S RIGHT-HAND MAN.



IDO... YOU ARE ALIVE...

I WANT TO SEE YOU...!

IF I CAN SEE IDO AGAIN, I-- I DON'T CARE IF I'M A PRISONER...!

I DON'T CARE IF I'M JUST A BRAIN...! I DON'T EVEN NEED MY FREEDOM...!

HUH? IS SHE CRYING?

HEH! HUMANS ARE SO WEAK...

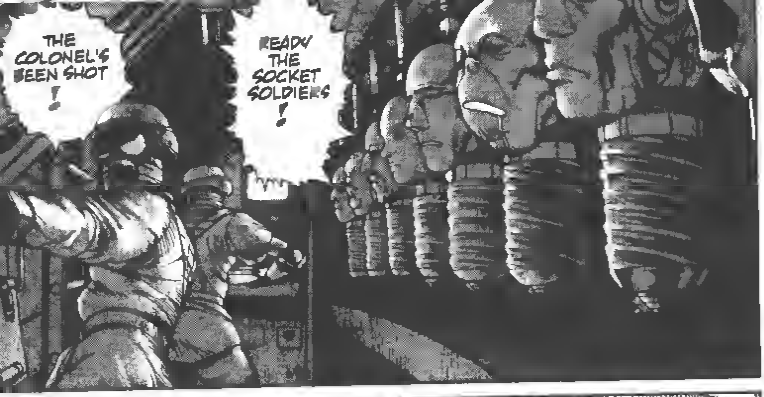
GAK!

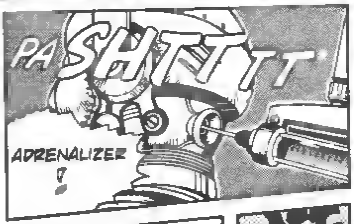
BLAM

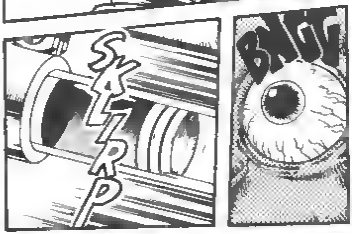
!?

KN-KNUCKLEHEAD!?
HAVE YOU GONE MAD!?
HAHAA! THIS IS FOR MAKING A FOOL OF ME!
BLSH
BLSH
BLSH

SPLUP
HAHAA! I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE, ALITA!
STOP IT! YOU IDIOT!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!? I COULD HAVE SEEN IDO!
IDO--!
SHADDAP! WHAT'IZE YOU DOIN'-- CRYIN' LIKE SOME BABY!?
IS THIS THE SAME ANGEL OF DEATH I FOUGHT?! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!
FWAM

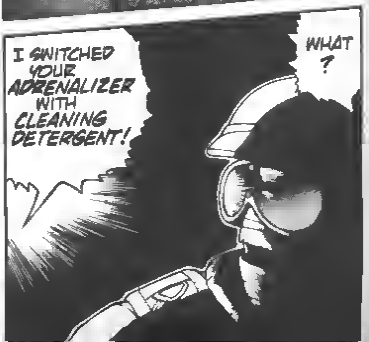

THE COLONEL'S BEEN SHOT!
READY THE SOCKET SOLDIERS!


PA SHTTTT
ADRENALIZER!

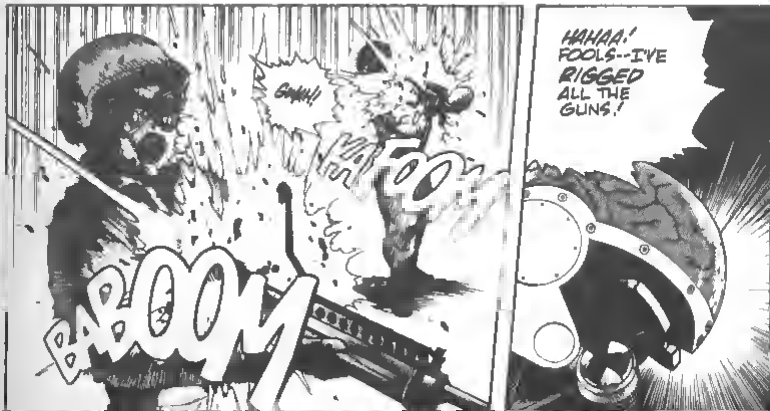

SKIRP
BNOZ

GAH.. GUUGH.
FSSSH
FSSH

WHAT IN HELL!?
SCHHH
TSSSH
SKSSS!


I SWITCHED YOUR ADRENALIZER WITH CLEANING DETERGENT!
WHAT?

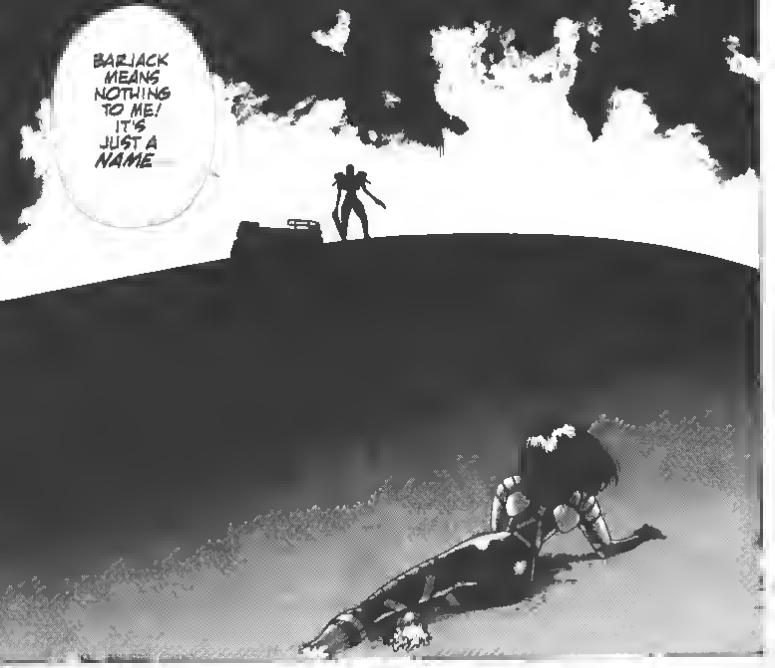
BOOSH
HAAA!
DIE!
YOU... YOU'VE TURNED AGAINST US!
STMP

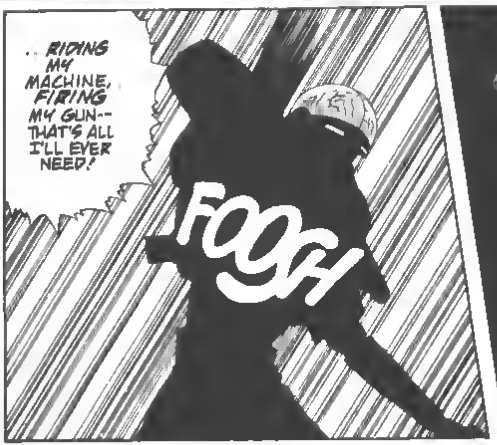

GAHH!
BABOOM
HAHAA! FOOLS--I'VE RIGGED ALL THE GUNS!

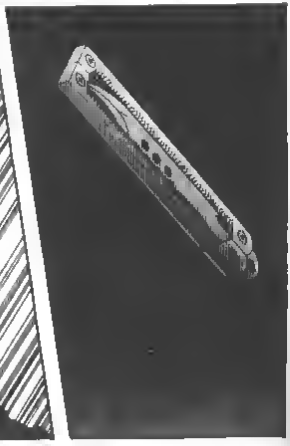
KABOOOM
BOOM
SSSHSH
WAHAHAHA!
BURN, BABA, BURN!
YOU... YOU SAVED ME, KNUCKLE...?
BABNAP
UHH!

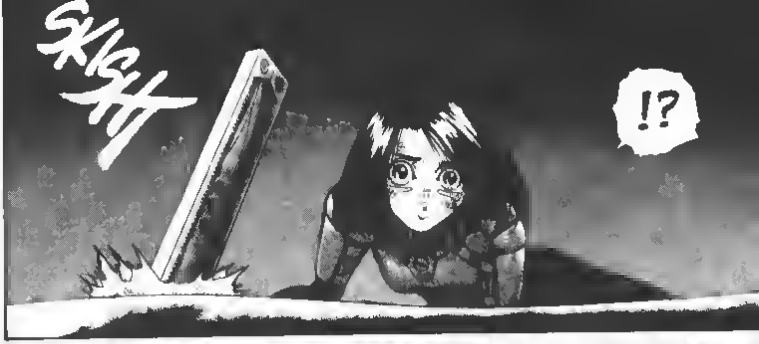
HSOOOOH
DON'T GET ME WRONG-- I JUST DIDN'T WANT THE OTHER FOOLS TO KILL YOU!
HAAAAAAAH! YOU'RE ALL MINE!
KLK

RAINMAKER
Journey 6: Freedom Road


BARJACK MEANS NOTHING TO ME! IT'S JUST A NAME


. . RIDING MY MACHINE, FIRING MY GUN-- THAT'S ALL I'LL EVER NEED!
FOOSH





THE FRONT SECTION OF THIS EXPLOSIVE SHELL IS A CONE SHAPE, TO ALLOW THE BLAST TO BE PROPELLED FORWARD UPON IMPACT. USING THE PRINCIPLE KNOWN AS THE "MONROE EFFECT," THE BULLET CAN PIERCE VIRTUALLY ANY ARMOR PLATING. THE PENETRATION POWER OF THE HE BULLET IS PROPORTIONAL TO THE CALIBER OF THE ROUND

*HE (HIGH EXPLOSIVE) BULLET *

(CUTAWAY VIEW)

--BUT THAT'S ENOUGH!
C'MON, ALITA!
YOU AND I ARE ALIKE... I COULD SENSE IT FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET! HAHAA!
FEELS GOOD TO CUT LOOSE, DON'T IT!? TO BECOME A WILD BEAST AND RUN 'TIL YA CAN'T RUN NO MORE!
LET'S GO, ALITA-- TO A WORLD WHERE IT'S NOTHIN' BUT WHITE!
HEH..

THAT'S IT! CMON!
HAHA!
HA HAHA!
HA...!?
WHA..!?

SKRANG
GURPH!
HOW PATHETIC!
IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF FREEDOM!?

IF YOU AIN'T GOT CONTROL OF THE RUDDERS OF YOUR LIFE, YOU SURE DON'T NEED SUCH A BIG BRAIN!
SHFF
KAVOOSH

KAKRESH
IT'S OVER
PUP
GAH!
BLABLORSH
FWHUD
F-FIGURE.
?

HEH, HEH MY HARMONICA PLAYIN'S GOTTEN BETTER, RIGHT?
SISHSH
AHA HA!
AHAHAHA! YOU JERK-- YOU'RE ALIVE!
BAP BAP
OW OW!
IT'S GOTTEN SORTA SCRATCHED UP, BUT HERE...
NO.. YOU KEEP IT.

RATTABRATTA
PIP
PIP
PIP
WHA--
!?
VEEEEEEM
UCKLEHEADS...
DEAD?
I SUPPOSE EVEN THE TINIEST CREATURES HAVE A FULL SOUL. SHOULD HAVE GUESSED KNUCKLEHEAD WOULD TURN AGAINST ME. IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR NOT SEEING IT...!
VWOOOOO

BUT NOW I KNOW BETTER! ANYONE--NO MATTER HOW SMALL--WHO GETS IN THE WAY OF BARJACK MUST BE CRUSHED WITHOUT MERCY!
KILL THEM!
YO...
YOLG?
SKA
GK

BADDA
VIP
!!
BADDA
YOLG, EVEN YOU...!?
VING
VIP
VING
BEEP
FOOLS! WHY CAN'T YOU SEE!?
BEEEM
BA BLA B

UNTIL WE DEFEAT TIPHARES, WE CANNOT HAVE TRUE FREEDOM-- NOT ON THE SURFACE!
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
WE WHO FIGHT THIS WAR OF PROGRESS ARE THE TRUE REPRESENTATIVES OF MANKIND!
VWIP VWIP
BOOSH
FOR THE REVOLUTION!
FWASH
KABOOOM
FIGHT ON, MY COMRADES!

F-FORGIVE ME...
F-FIGURE.
A-ALITA...
FORGIVE ME...
TITCH
TITCH
I-I'M SUCH A F-FAILURE... A-AND NOW I C-CAN'T EVEN SEE MY W-WIFE ANYMORE...SO... PLEASE--
UM'PH
YOLG...!

SHAAAAHHH!

SHHOOO
DAMN! WHICH WAY WAS IT ?
I THINK WE SHOULD STAY PUT, FIGURE !
ZASH

FMP

FIGURE...
YES, ALITA...?

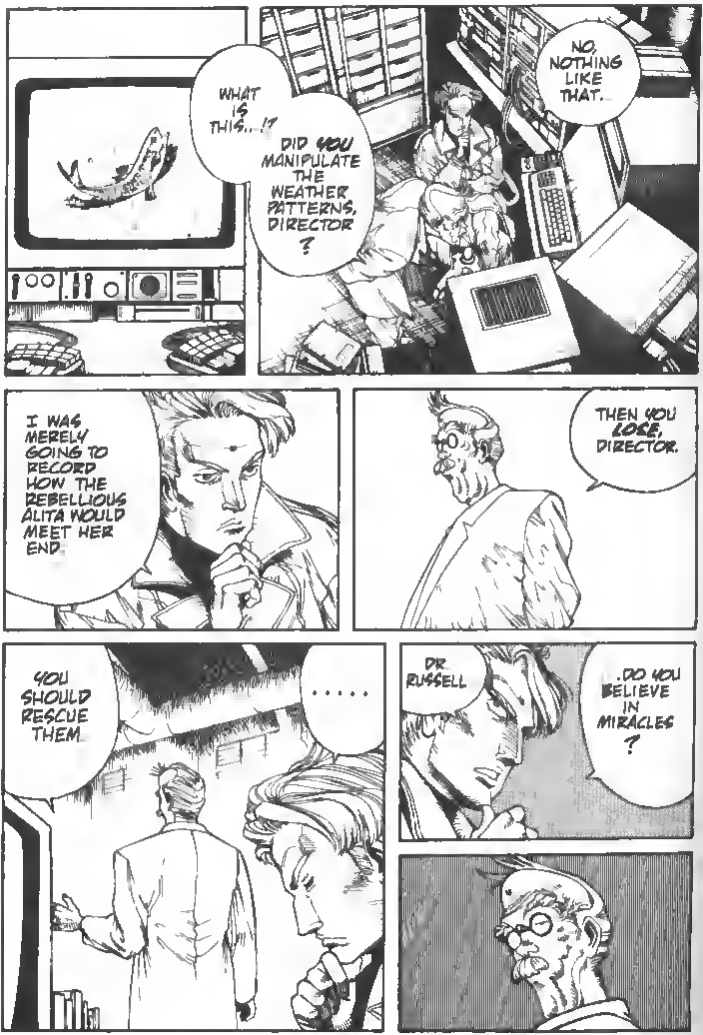
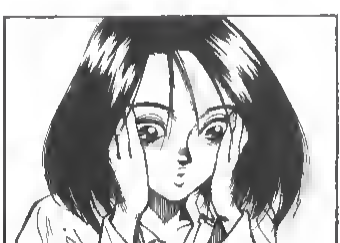
I-I JUST OVERHEATED..
I GUESS SOFT MACHINE* BODIES ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO HEAT...
SSSS
LEAVE ME BEHIND... I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF YOU DIED BECAUSE OF ME...
NO WAY!
BUT...CAN'T YOU COVER MORE GROUND IF YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND...?
MEH--I'M FREE TO CARRY THE WOMAN IVE FALLEN FOR..
FREE TO GO LEFT OR TO GO RIGHT
AND IF I DIE, IT WAS MY DESTINY.
BUT I AM GETTING A BIT THIRSTY.
I GUESS I'LL TRY ASKING THE GODS..

*SOFT MACHINE : FLEXIBLE MACHINES UTILIZING NANOTECHNOLOGY TO MAKE UP VITAL SYSTEMS

WHAT'S THAT..?
A SONG I LEARNED FROM THE RAIN-MAKER... WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID...
TSSH
SAAAA
I GUESS

FUMP
...LIFE'S ROUGH...
FIGURE...
SORRY... GUESS THE RAIN GOD DIDN'T ANSWER...
IT'S OKAY...
POP!
!

FWOOO
KSHOOOO
HAHAHAA! IT'S RAINING!
OW!
BWP
WHAT IN THE WORLD !?
FWIP
FWAP


WHAT IS THIS...!?
DID YOU MANIPULATE THE WEATHER PATTERNS, DIRECTOR?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT...
I WAS MERELY GOING TO RECORD HOW THE REBELLIOUS ALITA WOULD MEET HER END.
THEN YOU LOSE, DIRECTOR.
YOU SHOULD RESCUE THEM.
.....
DR RUSSELL
...DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

End of BATTLE ANGEL ALITA: ANGEL OF DEATH graphic novel